

come up with the right hash tag and title to capture what we are setting about to do: Sensible Justice. Incarcerate those who are dangerous to society, such as violent or sexual predators, and give those whose addictions are the primary cause of their illegal activity the chance at redemption and rehabilitation in what is indisputably the smarter, more financially efficient, and more seasoned way to reduce crime.

Perhaps we should have named our campaign "seasoned justice" to borrow a phrase that Shakespeare coined so eloquently through Portia's statement to Shylock:

*The quality of mercy is not strained.
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed:
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest. It becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown.
His scepter shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings,
But mercy is above this sceptered sway.
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings.
It is an attribute to God himself.
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice.*

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, May 31, for a roundtable discussion moderated by Buckeye's own Criminal Justice Fellow Daniel Dew at the Statehouse in Columbus to hear what actual practitioners in Ohio are doing to creatively and effectively reduce crime rates and recidivism, keep our communities safe, and enact sensible reforms. And, hey, there's an open bar. So let's join together to toast our extraordinary progress on criminal justice reforms in Ohio as well as Papa Shakespeare's uncanny mastery of the English language. Here's to The Buckeye Institute working with all of you to add dashes of mercy into our justice system.

Law, Order, and Sensible Justice Roundtable

**HOSTED BY: COALITION FOR PUBLIC
SAFETY, THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE AND
THE OHIO JUSTICE & POLICY CENTER**

**Wednesday, May 31
6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Ohio Statehouse Atrium
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215**

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Featuring:

**Senator John Eklund
Ohio State Senate, District 18**

Carter Stewart
Former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio

Captain Howard Rahtz (Ret.)
Cincinnati Police Department

Judge John W. "Tim" Rudduck
Clinton County Common Please Court

#

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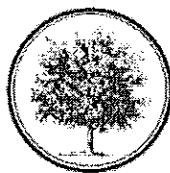
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 31, 2017

New Buckeye Institute Report: ESAs Would Meet Ohio's Unique Educational Needs

Columbus, OH - On Wednesday, The Buckeye Institute released its latest report, *Education Savings Accounts: Expanding Education Options for Ohio*, by **Greg R. Lawson** and Lindsey Burke. This timely new research assesses the benefits of educational savings accounts (ESAs) and calls on Ohio policymakers to adopt this innovative tool, which gives parents the ability to pay for the education services that best meet their child's individual needs, rather than being forced to use a one-size-fits-all model.

"The ESA concept builds upon Ohio's successes with a variety of scholarship programs such as EdChoice and will ensure that Ohio's children receive the education they deserve," said Lawson. "It also provides additional incentives that propel Ohio's educational system

forward from a 20th Century model into one nimble enough to meet the demands of the 21st Century."

What is an Education Savings Account?



In the report, Lawson and Burke outline precisely how ESAs would enable parents to customize their child's education to meet his or her unique needs. For example, ESAs would allow parents to pay not only for private schools, but also allow them to use any remaining money in the account to pay for additional educational items such as textbooks, tutors, enroll students in online classes, or even save money for college.

"To enhance choices for families, infuse innovation into the K-12 sector, and ensure that education opportunities are as unique as the children they teach, Ohio should establish a universal ESA option that maximizes flexibility, accommodation, and parent-driven accountability, Lawson and Burke said in the report. "Ohio students deserve access to the best educational opportunities. Empowering all families to customize their children's

education through ESAs builds upon Ohio's existing school choice options to ensure that every child has instruction suited to their individual needs."

See how Education Savings Accounts are Helping Families in Arizona, Florida, and Mississippi.

In the report, Burke and Lawson suggest two potential funding mechanisms for ESAs.

One option is funding an ESA program much like the state funds charter schools. The state could place 90 percent of the full per-pupil amount (\$6,000) into an ESA account and send the remaining 10 percent to the student's originally assigned school district in order to defray a portion of the district's fixed costs.

A second option would deposit only the actual amount that the district would have received from the state into a student's ESA account. As Burke and Lawson note, though, while this mechanism might be easier to implement, it would also create less predictable ESA contributions.

In their conclusion, Lawson and Burke find that ESAs would ensure that every child has instruction more suited to his or her individual needs and would empower parents to make and afford educational choices for their children that meet those needs.

Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute and served for five years on the boards of two Columbus-based charter schools. Burke is the director of the Center for Education Policy at the **Heritage Foundation** and the Will Skillman fellow in education policy. She is also a fellow at **EdChoice**.

#

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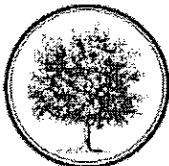
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2017

Buckeye Urges Greater Spending Restraint and Tax Reform in Budget *Greg R. Lawson Testifies before Senate Finance Committee*

Columbus, OH - In testimony (scroll down for the complete testimony) before the Senate Finance Committee on Ohio's biennial budget (Sub. H. B. No. 49), **The Buckeye Institute's** Greg R. Lawson urged the Ohio Senate to "pursue meaningful reform" in a number of key policy areas that will reign in government spending, reform Ohio's tax code, increase educational choice and improve Ohio's criminal justice system.

"State budgets are always about more than just dollars and cents. They represent more than simply funding state programs. The state budget process gives legislators and policymakers the chance to adopt policy preferences and priorities for the next two years," said Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "That's a golden opportunity to pursue meaningful reform that shouldn't be missed."

Building on The Buckeye Institute's **2017 Piglet Book**, and commentary written throughout the budget process (**What the Ohio Senate Should Do with the Biennial Budget and House Substitute Budget: A Missed Opportunity for Bold Reform**), Lawson outlined areas where the Ohio Senate can improve the budget and provided specific policy recommendations for the members to consider.

Lawson encouraged the Senate to consider the following:

- More spending reductions;
- A small, across-the-board income tax cut and modifications to the small business tax deduction;
- Embracing the governor's education funding policies and changing the "safe harbor" provisions so that the **EdChoice scholarship program** functions as designed;
- Adopting most of the House of Representative's Medicaid provisions-except for returning to the governor's managed care proposal regarding the Aged, Blind, and Disabled community;
- Adopting the governor's proposed budget for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, especially the **Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison** program's expansion;
- Returning to the governor's proposals regarding need-based Local Government Fund allocations;
- Re-examining and eliminating occupational license fee increases; and
- Retaining limits on the Controlling Board's authority to spend unanticipated federal dollars, and curtailing the Board's authority to raise occupational license fees.

In concluding his testimony, Lawson praised the reforms lawmakers have made that have improved Ohio's economy. "Despite economic headwinds and clouds still looming along the horizon, Ohio has improved its prospects for job- and income-growth. As the first green shoots of growth begin to blossom, the biennial budget provides Senators with the perfect opportunity to set a bold course for Ohio's prosperity."

###

**Interested Party Testimony Submitted to the
Ohio Senate Finance Committee on the Biennial Operating Budget**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions**

June 1, 2017

Thank you, Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today regarding the biennial budget. My name is Greg R. Lawson, and I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions** here in Columbus.

State budgets are always about more than just dollars and cents. They represent more than simply funding state programs. The state budget process gives legislators and policymakers the chance to adopt policy preferences and priorities for the next two years.

That's a golden opportunity to pursue meaningful reform that shouldn't be missed. The Buckeye Institute believes that the current budget proposal up for your consideration requires a number of critical changes in order to take full advantage of this biennial opportunity to make Ohio more prosperous. Our recommendations include changes to government spending, tax and education policies, Medicaid, and local government policies.

We would encourage the Senate to consider the following:

- More spending reductions;
- A small, across-the-board income tax cut and modifications to the small business tax deduction;
- Embracing the Governor's education funding policies and changing the "safe harbor" provisions so that the **EdChoice scholarship program** functions as designed;
- Adopting most of the House of Representative's Medicaid provisions-except for returning to the Governor's managed care proposal regarding the Aged, Blind, and Disabled community;
- Adopting the Governor's proposed budget for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, especially the **Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (TCAP)** program's expansion;
- Returning to the Governor's proposals regarding need-based Local Government Fund allocations;
- Re-examining and eliminating occupational license fee increases; and
- Retaining limits on the Controlling Board's authority to spend unanticipated federal dollars, and curtailing the Board's authority to raise occupational license fees.

With the Committee's permission, I will explain these recommendations in more detail.

Spending

The House of Representative's budget *appears* to reduce Governor Kasich's budget proposal by \$12.8 billion over the fiscal years (FY) 2018-19. Unfortunately, much of the apparent reduction is unlikely to be realized. More than 96 percent of the House's on paper reductions manifest in two areas: a fiduciary pass-through account that collects municipal income taxes in order to redistribute them; and Medicaid.

First, the Governor's budget proposed a large increase to this account as part of the Governor's proposed business net-taxes filings. The House modified that proposal and thus reduced the Governor's expected appropriations by \$944 million.

Second, the House budget calls for significant reductions in Medicaid spending that, in our view, are unlikely to materialize. The House appropriates \$5.6 billion less than the Governor proposed for FY18, and \$5.8 billion less for FY19. This intentional underfunding dovetails nicely with the House's new "guard rails" on the Medicaid program that will require Controlling Board approval every six months in order to increase Medicaid spending, and assurances that the Administration is pursuing Medicaid reforms, including Healthy Ohio and other state innovation waivers.

We agree with these efforts to tether the "Pac-Man" of Ohio's budget, but we assume that the Administration will seek those waivers and that the Controlling Board will therefore release most of the Medicaid funds. Consequently, the House's "reductions" will likely prove illusory.

Accordingly, we believe that further reductions in state spending are needed to keep Ohio's budget in the black and allow for meaningful tax reform. The Buckeye Institute urges renewed focus on spending outside core government services, namely, spending associated with the arts, marketing assistance for Ohio's grape industry, and other examples of earmarks and public spending on private businesses that effectively allows the government to pick "winners and losers" in the marketplace.

My testimony includes an attached copy of The Buckeye Institute's **2017 Piglet Book** for more specific spending-cut recommendations.

Taxes

The Buckeye Institute has long argued that Ohio should eliminate its personal income tax, and Governor Kasich has kept his promise to reduce the burden of the income tax on all Ohio families, most recently with a 6.3 percent reduction in income tax rates in 2015.

In 2016, Ohio's per capital labor income, per capita investment income, and the employed population grew faster than in most Midwest states due, in no small part, to the Administration's tax cuts that also helped Ohio's per capita economic output outperform the national average.

Although we agree with the general direction of Mr. Kasich's tax policy, we differ on a few specifics.

Like the Governor, we want Ohio's small businesses eventually to pay no income tax, but the current small business tax deduction appears to create a great deal of tax shifting and has meant significant declines in revenue. We believe it will prove more sustainable to lower these deductions and give Ohio's tax brackets an across-the-board rate cut. The Senate should explore other areas, such as phasing down the property tax rollback by one or two percent, to offset revenue losses and pay for an across-the-board rate cut. A one percent rollback reduction, for instance, could yield tens of millions in savings over the biennium, and a two percent cut could save over \$100 million.

Currently, the state pays 10 percent of property taxes for all Ohioans, and for those who live in their home the state pays an additional 2.5 percent. Thus the state sets aside more than \$1.8 billion in general revenues each fiscal year to reimburse local governments for local decisions. Since the property tax rollback program was adopted when Ohio began imposing an income tax, the amount spent on the program should be cut as Ohio's income tax declines. The Senate also should consider means testing the rollback beyond our suggested phased-in reduction.

Finally, because Ohio's municipal tax structure remains a daunting labyrinth, especially for smaller businesses, The Buckeye Institute recommends returning to the Governor's proposed municipal income tax reform. Should it remain optional for businesses to file net-profits municipal income taxes, however, we encourage the Senate at least to guarantee that taxpayers do not pay an administrative fee for filing net-profits taxes.

Education

The Senate should retain the basic outline of the current education budget but should *not* increase appropriations beyond those made by the House. We would urge the Senate to return to the Governor's proposed appropriation levels and remove "safe harbor" provisions that unfairly restrict eligibility for EdChoice scholarships.

The House budget rightly embraced the contours of Governor Kasich's education proposal that begins unwinding the "caps" and "guarantees" that distort the Foundation Funding Formula. Money should follow students and *not* just be used as a mechanism for funding the education "system" and its ever-expanding bureaucracy.

The Senate should also eliminate or reform the current "safe harbor" provision that denies parents school-choice options by preventing hundreds of schools across the state from being eligible for EdChoice scholarships.

Medicaid

We think that the Senate should embrace the House budget's language on Medicaid and state innovation waivers-including resubmitting the Healthy Ohio waiver-and add deadlines for submitting those waivers to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Additionally, the Senate should include language that maintains the Administration's flexibility to improve Ohio's health care system.

Ohio's 2015 budget instructed the Kasich Administration to seek a state innovation waiver granting some freedom from onerous regulations under the Affordable Care Act. The new Secretary of HHS has encouraged states to pursue innovation waivers and the Senate should expand on 2015's waiver instructions and encourage Mr. Kasich's Administration to pursue waivers that will lower premiums. The Senate should include a reinsurance component similar to the waiver submitted by Alaska (and touted by HHS) that could reduce insurance premiums for Ohioans.

Some providers are understandably concerned about Governor Kasich's proposal to shift many aged, blind, and disabled Medicaid recipients into managed care. This process should be closely monitored and evaluated, of course, but continued delay will likely mean higher costs and less coordination of care, and we recommend adopting the Governor's proposal in this area.

Criminal Justice

The Buckeye Institute supports the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's budget proposal dealing with the TCAP program. As we testified before the House, we support policies that would rehabilitate low-level offenders in their communities. The Senate should return to Governor Kasich's proposal or, at the very least, should maintain the proposal in the House budget.

Rehabilitating low-level offenders in the community is twice as effective as state incarceration at one-third the cost, and watering down the TCAP provisions even further would significantly dilute the policy's potency.

Local Government

The Senate should further reduce the Local Government Fund (LGF). The House appropriations call for \$388.1 million in FY18 and \$393.5 million in FY19. The Buckeye Institute has suggested eliminating the LGF entirely, which would save more than \$781 million over the coming biennium. At the very least, we think that the Senate should return to the Governor's proposal and direct LGF dollars to those communities that have the greatest difficulty raising requisite revenues locally.

Separately, the Senate should not increase or make permanent distributions to counties for lost sales tax revenue due to the eliminated Medicaid Managed Care Organization tax. Those tax dollars were windfalls that counties obtained through piggyback sales tax systems. If new funds are needed to pay for local issues, then those dollars should be raised at the local level and not become a Columbus-based subsidy that obscures the true cost of local government from local taxpayers.

Occupational Licensing

To help more Ohioans secure gainful employment, the Senate should eliminate, or at least reduce, state-imposed hurdles and licensing fees strewn throughout the House's budget.

The Senate should also include language from the 131st General Assembly's Senate Bill 329 that would require the state to seek the "least restrictive form of regulation" for occupational licensing. This would clarify Ohio's interest in maintaining public safety without denying people employment prospects and opportunities. This language cleared both chambers of the General Assembly last year, and Governor Kasich's veto concerned SB 329's agency sun-setting provisions and not the "least restrictive form of regulation" language.

Controlling Board Reform

The Senate should build upon the House's effort to reassert legislative power over spending through reasonable reforms to the Controlling Board. The House capped the windfall money that could be obligated by the Controlling Board at \$10 million, and the Senate should maintain the House's cap. The Senate should also eliminate the Controlling Board's authority to raise occupational license fees by up to 50 percent-a roadblock for people

trying to secure well-paying jobs. Alternatively, the Senate should lower the occupational licensing fee cap to 25 percent.

Conclusion

In conclusion, despite economic headwinds and clouds still looming along the horizon, Ohio has improved its prospects for job- and income-growth. As the first green shoots of growth begin to blossom, the biennial budget provides Senators with the perfect opportunity to set a bold course for Ohio's prosperity.

Thank you for your time and attention today. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have.

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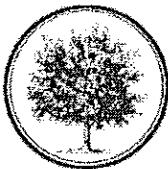
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Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm guessing that not many of you know that the Bayou state (which was originally dubbed *La Louisiane* in tribute to Louis XIV--King of France from 1643 to 1715) has gotten into a budgetary pickle here in the year 2017 AD.

Fear not.

To help policymakers in Baton Rouge sort out their options, The Buckeye Institute collaborated with our good friends at the Pelican Institute (Louisiana's premier voice for free markets) to conduct a peer reviewed study on a dozen tax policies and proposed changes, including some of Governor John Bel Edward's ill-advised plans.

Buckeye's Economic Research Center (ERC) team created a customized dynamic model of Louisiana's existing economy and then inputted various policy changes to determine which solutions would create the least amount of economic harm to the already struggling families and businesses in Louisiana.

When numbers speak, we listen. Our team of economists and data analysts is second to none and, golly jeepers, do they ever get excited about charts and graphs and exploring the validity of their hypotheses with hard numbers. For those of us whose highest math

class was a senior year of honors calculus in high school before we took that wretchedly easy class widely known as "math for liberal arts (a.k.a. political science) majors" in college, these guys are the mad scientists and geniuses who understand complex theorems and derivatives the way I understand my son's excuses for avoiding his homework. In other words, they see through to the truth of the matter at hand.

After finalizing our research, our lead economist Orphe Divounguy, Ph.D., along with Buckeye's president and CEO Robert Alt, flew down to make the case in person and present the results of our comprehensive analysis. These two Buckeye Institute superstars met with policymakers and leaders in the legislature, industry groups, press and media folks, and showed all of them the simulated policy changes through our economic model.

The model determined that eliminating the corporate income tax and replacing it with a revenue neutral sales tax increase would create jobs, grow the economy, and increase tax revenue. Only a Maoist could oppose those exciting outcomes. Approximately two weeks after these meetings, the same legislative leaders with whom our team met soundly defeated the Governor's policy proposals. Three cheers for economic sanity and courageously standing up to bad fiscal policy.

We are pleased to roll out this impactful new report, *Addressing Louisiana's Budget Shortfall: Strategies for Growth*, and show everyone in greater detail what our economic model produced.

"Rather than pursue revenues through increasing the tax burden on citizens, Louisiana would be better served by reducing or eliminating its corporate taxes, and creating incentives for increasing investment, and job creation across the state," said Dr. Orphe Pierre Divounguy, economist with The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center and lead author on the report. "Eliminating Louisiana's corporate income and franchise taxes offer the best path for spurring economic growth and eliminating some sales tax exemptions would have the least harmful effect on the state's gross domestic product while still raising additional tax revenue."

I should note here that it has come to our attention that some very dear supporters of ours are not reading all of our reports in full. They are long, yes, but what better way to prepare yourself to refute the one we heard the other day where Nancy Pelosi was speaking to a classroom full of second graders and was asked the awkward question about where jobs come from. Without missing a beat, she answered that there is a stork employed by the government who drops them off in each state every nine months.....

Okay, fine, that was a lame joke, but still, you should read these excellent economic reports that give us all the evidence necessary to push back against the big-government nonsense that surrounds us.

We love you all and thank you kindly for making our work possible to fight unsound economic policies wherever they are--whether here in Columbus or another state in this great nation, so that we do not meanly lose this last best hope of earth.

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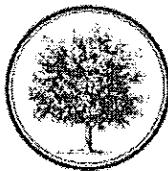
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 7, 2017

New Buckeye Institute and Tax Foundation Book Illustrates That Ohio's Tax System is in Need of Reform *Ohio Illustrated is a Visual Guide to Taxes and the Economy*

Columbus, OH - A new book released today by The Buckeye Institute and the Tax Foundation, *Ohio Illustrated: A Visual Guide to Taxes and the Economy*, provides a detailed overview of the state's economy and tax code and highlights areas where Ohio's tax system is most in need of reform.

"Ohio's tax code contains too many provisions that hinder its ability to compete economically with other states. *Ohio Illustrated* shows how the state's growing tax burden has resulted in slower economic growth over the past several decades," said Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive vice president at The Buckeye Institute. "This new book shows precisely how tax policy affects families, businesses, and our state's economic development."

Economically, Ohio has recently tracked with the national average for unemployment. However, the state is falling behind in other areas, such as per capita income, where Ohio is lower than the U.S. average and its neighboring states. An aging population and young people moving out of the state are shrinking Ohio's workforce. To help the state bounce back, Ohio policymakers need to improve its uncompetitive tax code to make the state a more attractive place to do business.

"Ohio's tax code is needlessly complex and burdensome. With one of the worst municipal income tax systems in the country, the compliance cost for many taxpayers is higher than their actual tax liability," said Scott Drenkard, director of state projects at the Tax Foundation. "Additionally, the state's commercial activities tax is one of the most harmful tax types, leading to tax pyramiding and higher prices for consumers."

Key findings in the book:

- **Ohio has one of the worst business tax climates in the country:** The Tax Foundation's *State Business Tax Climate Index* ranks states by their tax structure, and Ohio's needless tax complexity helps to drive its rank down to 45th in the country.
- **Ohio's municipal tax is a mess and in need of reform:** Both The Buckeye Institute and the Tax Foundation have testified on this issue and both agree that Governor Kasich's proposal in his FY 2018-2019 budget was a move in the right direction. Ohio has a complex web of local income taxes that makes the state's personal income tax one of worst in the country. Hundreds of municipalities and school districts impose local income taxes based on both where taxpayers work and where they live. Businesses face additional compliance costs by having to manage tax withholdings. Some parts of Ohio have top combined marginal tax rates of approximately nine percent, similar to those of high tax states like New Jersey and New York.
- **Economically detrimental gross receipts tax:** Ohio is one of only five states that imposes a gross receipts tax (also known as a commercial activities tax or CAT), which means taxes are levied at each stage of production, not just on final consumption. This hidden tax leads to higher consumer prices, lower wages, and fewer job opportunities as the tax permeates the production cycle. This tax also leads to vastly different effective rates between different industries in Ohio.

To reform Ohio's tax system, state policymakers need to consider not only tax burdens, but also tax fairness. The combination of Ohio's CAT and the state's administratively complex local income taxes causes significant burdens on the economy. This timely new book illustrates with data, charts, and graphs how lawmakers in Ohio could improve the state's business climate by collecting tax dollars in a more efficient, fair, transparent, and competitive manner.

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Since its founding in 1989, The Buckeye Institute has served as Ohio's leading free-market public policy think tank. Through its state-of-the-art Economic Research Center, The Buckeye Institute provides legislatures, governors, state think tanks, and policy experts the data, analysis, and dynamic modeling necessary to understand the impact of various policy proposals on human behavior and economic indicators at the state level. The Buckeye Institute's nationally-recognized research includes studies on government spending and transparency, health care, labor, energy, education, legal, and taxation reforms.

The Tax Foundation is the nation's leading independent tax policy research organization. Since 1937, its research, analysis, and experts have informed smarter tax policy at the federal, state, and local levels. Its Center for State Tax Policy uses research to foster competition among the states and advises policymakers on how to improve their tax systems.



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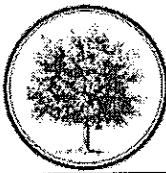
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Community Rehabilitation: Safer Communities for Less Money By Daniel J. Dew

A devoted budget hawk on government waste, Ohio Auditor Dave Yost, has saved Ohio taxpayers millions of dollars throughout his career. And we applaud him for that yeoman's effort. Curiously, Mr. Yost's letter to the Senate Finance Committee and recent editorial in *The Columbus Dispatch* urged the General Assembly to remove the **Target Community Alternatives to Prison** (TCAP) program from the state's two-year budget.

Concerned that TCAP will create a kind of "double secret probation" made famous by the Delta fraternity brothers in *Animal House*, Mr. Yost opposes including in the budget a measured criminal justice reform that could not only save taxpayers millions, but address a rising threat to our communities. The TCAP program would allow certain low-level offenders to remain in local corrections facilities and treatment centers rather than spend time-and more taxpayer money-incarcerated in state prisons.

Strong evidence indicates that "lock'em up and throw away the key" policies make our communities less safe and come with a hefty price tag. Ohio spends \$1.7 billion every

year on corrections-\$25,000 per inmate per year-and research suggests we are overpaying for our investment. **Study after study** has demonstrated that evidence based criminal justice reforms make communities safer while saving constituents money. Even "hang'em high" Texas, not known for being soft on crime, has shown that violent crime rates can fall even as state prison populations dwindle.

Criminal justice programs like TCAP benefit both budgets and public safety. **More than 95 percent** of those who go to prison will someday return to their community. Imprisoning an offender removes him from the community for a short time, but eventually he'll be back, making it imperative that he leaves prison better-not worse-than when he was put away. Unfortunately, prison generally has the opposite effect.

Studies show that people who serve time in prison commit more and increasingly severe crimes when they get out. Locking low-level offenders in with hardened career criminals tends to result in more hardened criminals who have been "taught" more tricks of the criminal trade. As those low-level offenders are released with their newly learned "skills," they are too often alienated and unable to secure honest work and many will return to a life of crime.

The TCAP program helps break this vicious cycle. With TCAP, the **Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction** (DRC) would divert criminal justice funds to counties in order to create or expand rehabilitation programs for low-level, non-violent offenders. These community-based rehabilitation programs have been shown to be twice as effective at one-third the cost of time spent in state prison.

Of course, TCAP is not for everyone, and those offenders too dangerous for community-based programs would be ineligible for the program. Like many, Mr. Yost is understandably concerned that TCAP will make heroin traffickers ineligible for prison, sending them to local community programs instead. But a "trafficker" would only qualify for TCAP if she possesses less than one gram of heroin, does not possess a firearm, is not near a school, and is charged with only one count. In many states, possessing one gram of heroin does not rise to the level of "trafficking." Instead, such low-level possession in those states is misdemeanor possession that does not merit prison.

Heroin "traffickers" with less than one gram are usually small-time sellers trying to support their own habit. Those suffering such addition stare down death with every dose. If death is no deterrent, neither is prison.

As Ohio's heroin and opioid epidemic worsens we cannot arrest and incarcerate our way out of the problem. That solution has been tried. And it failed. TCAP, on the other hand, will provide state resources for communities to treat low-level, non-violent heroin and drug addicts to alleviate demand. By treating and rehabilitating addicts through community-based programs rather than incarceration, TCAP will not only help addicts, but will also reduce the discouraging number of criminals-in-training that inevitably return to our neighborhoods and playgrounds.

To borrow again from the fraternal brothers of Animal House, this situation absolutely requires that we stop trying **"really futile and stupid gestures."** It is time to decrease demand for heroin, not just supply.

Daniel J. Dew is the criminal justice fellow with The Buckeye Institute.

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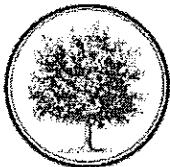
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Ohio legislators are in the midst of a contentious biennial budget discussion involving the need to cut at least \$800 million to address projected revenue shortfalls.

As you will recall, The Buckeye Institute previously released our perennial fan-favorite **Piglet Book** to help guide those conversations, and we continue to call balls and strikes fairly whether pitched by our fiscal-hawk friends or government-worshipping foes. Legislators always want to ensure their pet projects and earmarks are not on our list of recommended cuts, but we kindly remind everyone that spending simply must be restrained to balance the budget and that means unpopular cuts are necessary.

Didn't we all learn this lesson when we got our first apartments? There isn't enough money coming in to spend wildly on booze-filled weekends, keep up with the latest fashion, sample trendy restaurant meals, cover the utilities, date that person you want to impress, and stay out of debt. Something must give.

Well, this morning just prior to the Ohio Senate releasing its version of the budget, our hometown newspaper and Ohio's paper of record--the beloved **Columbus Dispatch**--published an editorial citing heavily to your Buckeye Institute's Piglet Book and imploring legislators to cut the pork.

See for yourselves below.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let's just say if even the *press* thinks legislators ought to heed our sound advice.... Just saying.

The Columbus Dispatch

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'Piglet Book' suggests savings in state budget

The Columbus Dispatch

The Editorial Board

June 12, 2017

It's nose-in-the-trough time again at the Ohio Statehouse. While schools, prisons and Medicaid are major areas of spending in the two-year budget being hammered out in the Senate, other suggested appropriations are better examples of pork than public policy.

To help lawmakers focus on essential government services and responsibilities, the nonpartisan Buckeye Institute has again produced its "Ohio Piglet Book."

"The following items that are recommended for elimination are not necessarily bad things in general," report author, Greg R. Lawson writes in the 2017 edition by the free-market think tank. "However, they are not appropriate use of state resources."

The items singled out by the institute come from Gov. John Kasich's proposed budget and then were massaged in the House. How the final appropriations will look in the Senate by the end of this month is anyone's guess. It's politics. But it's worth legislators heeding the Buckeye Institute's general thrust when it comes to spending Ohioans' hard-

earned loot: Focus on core government duties, curtail government growth, encourage private-sector support and end corporate welfare - distributing government dollars to favored companies, disadvantaging competitors.

Take the \$2.4 million collected on behalf of Ohio-grown wine grapes. Every gallon of wine sold in Ohio, whether it comes from Lake Erie or California, is subject to a total of a nickel-per-gallon excise tax to subsidize a marketing program benefiting Ohio wine producers. Why should consumers foot the bill for Ohio wines? Why not impose an excise tax on hamburgers, to help Wendy's compete against McDonald's? Ohio lawmakers should put a cork in this spending.

Another area in which the research group suggests not spending tax dollars is for the Ohioana Library. Intense lobbying has been going on to spare this private, nonprofit organization from the budget ax; Kasich increased its operating funding from \$160,000 to \$180,000, which the House gutted entirely when it got its hands on the budget. (The library's rent subsidy remains.) The library curates a collection of Ohio authors and produces the Ohioana Book festival, among other things.

But tough budget decisions have to be made. The state needs to chop more than \$800 million from the budget, given falling income-tax revenues. This means prioritizing funding. The Ohioana Library already raises a large chunk of its budget from grants, donors and corporate sponsors. It's a wonderful asset, and it should be able to make a case for philanthropists to take over for taxpayers.

Yes, the library's costs are relatively small potatoes compared with the tens of billions Ohio spends each year, but pennies add up to dollars.

Likewise the Buckeye Institute cites other artistic and cultural endeavors it considers "ripe for termination." Among these is \$25.9 million in biennial state subsidies for the Ohio Arts Council, which the House trimmed to \$25.5 million. "The government should not be the arbiter of culture," it says, "Ohioans can evaluate for themselves which artists to patronize without the government's guidance."

Another target identified is \$722,900 over the two-year budget to support regulating Ohio Auctioneers through state licensing, which the institute says forces Ohioans to ask the state "Mother may I?" and seek government permission to work in their chosen field. "It is difficult to envision," the Institute writes, "what public safety issue could be at stake with respect to auctioneers."

The legislature should make sure that needless, burdensome and other nonessential government spending is going, going, gone.

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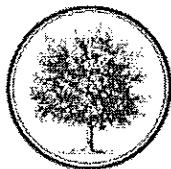
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2017

Buckeye Institute Experts Weigh-In on Senate Version of Ohio's Budget

Columbus, OH - The Ohio Senate announced its version of the biennial budget today and experts from The Buckeye Institute issued their reactions.

Spending and Taxes

"The Buckeye Institute is pleased with some of the additional positive steps made by the Ohio Senate in their first crack at the state budget," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "Additional agency spending reductions, the elimination of some earmarks, and lower Medicaid appropriations are all moves in the right direction. Of course, there remain plenty of areas that could use further trimming to create an even more sustainable budget, especially if revenues continue to lag."

"We applaud the Senate's commitment to maintain previous tax cuts and reforms, which are critical if Ohio is going to continue seeing economic growth, said **Orphe Divounguy**,

Ph.D., the lead economist at The Buckeye Institute's **Economic Research Center**. "In 2016, Ohio's per capita real gross domestic product grew faster than all neighboring states, second only to Michigan, according to the **Bureau of Economic Analysis**. To maintain this trend and ensure that the positive economic benefits of tax cuts are realized, the state needs to continue to pursue income tax reductions across all income tax brackets instead of targeted tax deductions and credits."

Criminal Justice Reform

"We commend the Senate for retaining the **Target Community Alternatives to Prison** (TCAP) program in the budget," said **Daniel J. Dew**, criminal justice fellow at The Buckeye Institute's **Legal Center**. "Although the program will be voluntary for much of the state, we anticipate counties will quickly see the benefits and increased public safety that will come from community-based rehabilitation for low-level offenders."

Municipal Tax Reform

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"We are pleased to see an opt-in for businesses to file a single municipal income tax return," said Lawson. "As our **recent report**, released in conjunction with the **Tax Foundation**, said, Ohio's municipal tax is a mess and in need of reform. Ohio's complex web of local income taxes makes the state's personal income tax one of worst in the country with hundreds of municipalities and school districts imposing local income taxes based on where taxpayers work and where they live. Ohio's system is so burdensome that some areas have top combined marginal tax rates of more than nine percent, similar to high tax states such as New Jersey and New York."

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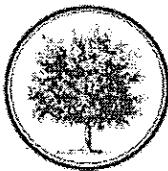
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June 14, 2017

At White House, The Buckeye Institute and Ohio Senate President Obhof Call for Greater Flexibility for the States on Health Care Reforms

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute, along with Ohio's Senate President Larry Obhof, attended a White House meeting on Wednesday that included legislative leaders from several states as well as nationally-recognized health care policy experts to discuss the concerns and needs of the states on health care reform.

Ohio's delegation to the meeting included Senator Obhof and Buckeye's own Executive Vice President Rea S. Hederman Jr. who were there to request more flexibility from Washington for the states to have more control over managing their own health care. Similar requests had previously been blocked by the Obama administration.

"Last week, Anthem left 20 Ohio counties without an insurer on the private market. If Obamacare actually worked as promised, insurance companies would not be abandoning

these markets. Providing greater flexibility for each state to fix health care for its own population is an idea whose time has indisputably come," said Hederman, a nationally-recognized health care policy expert. "Senator Obhof has provided tremendous leadership on this issue in Ohio by using the state budget to require Ohio to seek an innovation waiver, and The Buckeye Institute was honored to join him in representing Ohio at the White House."

Senator Obhof and The Buckeye Institute have both urged the Department of Health and Human Services to grant Ohio a state innovation 1332 waiver, which would enable Ohio to eliminate the individual and employer mandates.

Hederman recently authored an article in *The Hill* where he reminded readers that no one wants anyone to be uninsured, "but glossing over the problems with health care reform and Medicaid won't provide people with quality health care," said Hederman. "Buckeye is proud to be leading the way in calling for bold action from the states in seeking waivers for Medicaid and state innovation and in calling for more flexibility to implement solutions for our citizens."

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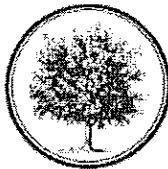
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Overview of First Senate Changes to Ohio's Budget

By **Greg R. Lawson**
June 19, 2017

On June 12, the Ohio Senate unveiled its initial version of the state's biennial operating budget, improving upon the House of Representatives' version, **House Bill 49**. The Senate's solid first effort goes further than the House in some key areas—including administrative agency cuts, Medicaid reductions, municipal tax reform, criminal justice, and healthcare—but more work remains to be done, especially with recurring revenue shortfalls looming on the horizon.

In our **initial comments on the Senate version** of the budget we commended the Senate for their work, but highlighted that "there remain[ed] plenty of areas that could use further trimming to create an even more sustainable budget, especially if revenues continue to lag."

With that in mind, we offer the following observations as the Senate continues its budget deliberations.

Spending

The Senate draft reduces the House's total appropriations over the biennium by \$366 million. With appropriations of \$60.7 billion in FY18 and \$61.9 billion in FY19, state spending would dip below actual FY16 spending and projected FY17 spending. The Senate exceeds the House's General Revenue Funds (GRF) cuts by an additional \$423 million, wisely eliminating a fair number of earmarks. Many of the Senate's proposed spending reductions are real—not illusory accounting gimmicks—and demonstrate more progress toward fiscal responsibility than we often see in the budget process.

Some of the Senate's cost-savings are unlikely to materialize fully, particularly the proposed Medicaid cuts, but we applaud both chambers for requiring the Kasich Administration to obtain Controlling Board approval for expanded Medicaid spending. In addition, we remain encouraged that the Board's approval is contingent upon the Administration seeking federal Medicaid reform waivers.

In addition to finding more administrative savings within state agencies, the Senate will also claw back millions of unspent dollars scattered throughout various line items throughout the budget. Some of the claw-backs may prove one-time savings that cannot be repeated in subsequent years, but the Senate's effort are appreciated nonetheless.

The Senate slashes the **Department of Education's** budget by \$142.6 million over two fiscal years, but retains the House's increases in foundation funding. Even more significantly, the Senate substantially revises the school funding formula in order to prevent most school districts, even those with significant enrollment declines, from receiving less funding. The revised funding formula will be paid for in part by lowering the caps on faster growing districts.

Taking a few pages out of our **Piglet Book**, the Senate version reduces appropriations for several line items, including the "Small Business and Export Assistance" by nearly \$1.4 million over two years.

And finally, the Senate wisely retains reforms that will limit the Controlling Board's authority over unexpected federal windfalls, and will prevent the Board from circumventing the legislature.

Taxes

We applaud both chambers for maintaining previous tax cuts and reforms that are now beginning to deliver for Ohio. According to the **Bureau of Economic Analysis**, Ohio's economy grew faster in 2016 than each of our neighbor states except Michigan. Despite this positive sign, several examples illustrate the work that remains to be done to make the tax code as simple and fair as possible for Ohio's families and businesses.

Ohio's tax code remains riddled with complex deductions and special exemptions that encourage individuals and businesses to restructure their transactions to gain tax benefits. Although tax deductions may support worthy causes, such as college savings and disability-expense accounts, reducing the size and number of deductions will make Ohio's tax code more efficient, more fair, and may ultimately help Ohio transition from an income tax to a pro-growth consumption tax state.

Thus, we think that the Senate's proposal which doubles the tax deductions available for college savings plans and disability-expense savings accounts from \$2,000 to \$4,000 per beneficiary takes a step in the wrong direction. We have similar concerns about special tax treatments that favor only certain sectors and industries, such as the "Rural Jobs Act," which unfairly benefits insurance companies and financial institutions that invest in rural and "high growth" funds. Although spurring rural job-growth is a noble cause, we think it unlikely that these tax expenditures will succeed, and all businesses and families would see greater benefits with sustainable across-the-board tax cuts.

Instead of adding or expanding special tax exemptions, policymakers should look to reduce and eliminate deductions in order to finance an across-the-board income tax cut. Reducing taxes across all tax brackets would continue to leverage the state's recent economic gains and have a far greater impact on rural Ohio than special-interest tax breaks.

Municipal Income Tax

The Senate took a positive step that will allow businesses to file a single tax return, while not shifting administrative fees to taxpayers. This provision will save Ohio businesses from some of the administrative headaches associated with Ohio's byzantine municipal income tax. Much more reform is needed, of course, but it is good to see a strong effort to fix a broken system that consistently hurts Ohioans.

Medicaid

The Senate has yet to embrace the Governor Kasich's proposal to shift certain Medicaid populations, particularly the more expensive Aged, Blind, and Disabled category, into managed care in order to save money while providing better care. However, at least the Senate's budget continues reforming Medicaid and makes some progress reigning in

Ohio's fiscal "Pac-Man" by cutting more than \$100 million from the **Department of Medicaid** over FY18 and FY19.

The Senate's intentional *underfunding* of Medicaid will help maintain legal guardrails on the program and encourage **Healthy Ohio** and other **significant reforms** through state innovation or 1332 waivers. As noted, the current Senate budget also wisely retains House provisions concerning Medicaid and the Controlling Board's required authorization for expansion spending. These policies will likely reduce Medicaid costs and make it easier for Medicaid expansion recipients to move into affordable private insurance coverage.

Education

The Senate adopts some of the Administration's proposal to begin shifting Ohio's school funding formula away from guarantees and caps. Unfortunately, the Senate lowers the caps, and thus slows the state's transition away from guarantees.

The caps and guarantees in Ohio's education funding distort the Foundation Funding Formula (the designated amount spent on each public-school student from the General Revenue Fund and lottery profits). Guarantees allow districts with declining enrollment to maintain previous funding levels despite serving fewer students, and caps prevent districts with growing enrollment levels from receiving the formula's full amount. We think more robust efforts should be pursued through the budget process to resolve this systemic issue.

We would also encourage policymakers to eliminate "safe harbors" for many school buildings. The legal safe harbor provisions effectively limit or prevent many students from receiving EdChoice scholarships as hundreds of buildings that should be eligible for those scholarships are never added to the eligibility list.

Criminal Justice

We commend the Senate for retaining the **Target Community Alternatives to Prison** (TCAP) program. Although the program will be voluntary for much of the state under the Senate's budget, counties will quickly join the program as they see the benefits to public safety that come from community-based rehabilitation for low-level offenders.

Local Government

The Senate tweaks the distribution of the Local Government Fund to help various programs battling Ohio's opiate addiction crisis, and also fine-tunes the formula for the Public Library Fund to receive an additional \$9 million in GRF over the biennium.

The Buckeye Institute recommends phasing out the LGF altogether or at least implementing the Governor's proposal to better target the LGF to those local governments that have limited capacities to raise operational funds.

Conclusion

The Ohio Senate deserves credit for the positive steps they have taken with first iteration of the budget, especially in light of reduced revenues. However, now is not the time to rest. The Buckeye Institute still recommends additional reductions, highlighted in our **Piglet Book**, to further improve Ohio's fiscal situation and appropriately balance state priorities.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

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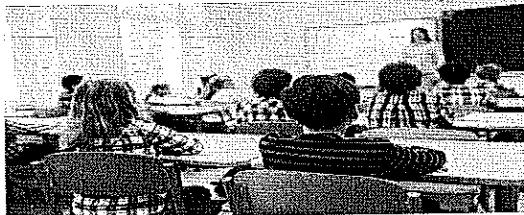
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This week's #SchoolChoice highlights you might have missed.



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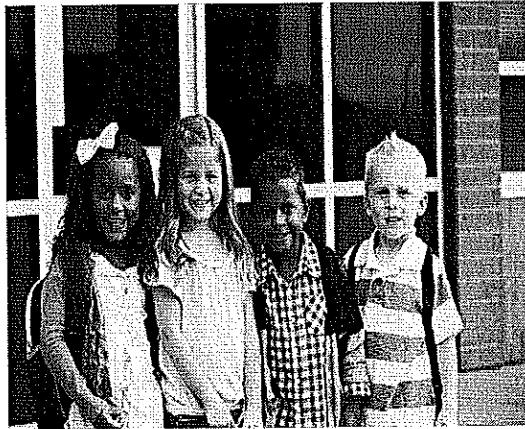
The Buckeye Institute recently released [Education Savings Accounts: Expanding Education Options for Ohio](#), explaining how ESAs will build upon the state's successful voucher and scholarship programs.

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Nevada: \$20 Million Increase for Opportunity Scholarships

Funding for Nevada's Opportunity Scholarship program has increased by \$20 million. This boost will allow more low-income students the opportunity to attend private schools.

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No Monopoly on Truth

It seems Diane Ravitch didn't like *School Inc.*, the three-part documentary series created by former Cato education analyst Andrew Coulson. But her critiques reveal why it is so crucial that

The Voucher Fight Isn't Clear-Cut

As an education researcher, Robin Lake used to firmly oppose school vouchers. But the process of finding the right educational setting for her own son has changed her opinion.



all sides of controversial issues get heard,
not just those with whom we agree.

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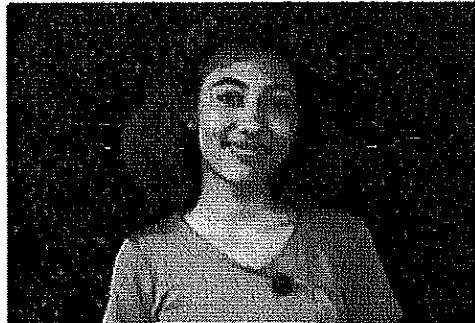
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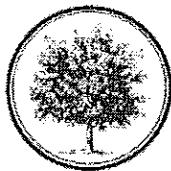
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 20, 2017

The Buckeye Institute's Greg Lawson Calls for Greater Education Choice and Opportunities for Ohio's Families

Lawson Testifies Before the Ohio House Education and Career Readiness Committee

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today before the Ohio House Education and Career Readiness Committee on Opportunity Scholarship program and education savings accounts that are contained in House Bill 200. In his testimony (see full testimony below), Lawson, who is a research fellow at The Buckeye Institute and a leader in the Ohio school choice movement, urged Ohio to give greater education options and opportunities to families.

"Despite the exceptional resources devoted to schools and education over the last few decades, we have yet to see academic gains commensurate with those investments. At least

one reason we seem unable to reap significant gains lies in our failure to adapt to the changing realities of our new century," said Lawson. "Our education model remains stuck in the post-Industrial Age of 20th century mass production while our children-the supposed beneficiaries of that model-live and think in the increasingly made-to-order 21st."

Citing a recent report he co-authored on **education savings accounts** (ESA), Lawson highlighted the benefits of ESAs and the success they have seen in other states. "ESAs give families the purchasing power to create a customized education for their children, empowering them to order from an à la carte menu of education services, instead of suffering the one-size-fits-all model of education currently provided by their government-assigned local public school," said Lawson. "ESAs allow parents to purchase textbooks, hire tutors, enroll students in online classes, pay private school tuition, and even save money for college. Not surprisingly, in states that have already implemented ESA programs, parents have expressed their approval."

In closing, Lawson praised the progress Ohio has made and encouraged further changes that will give parents and families more control of their children's education. "We are pleased to see Ohio take another step in joining the ranks of these school choice sister states. The Opportunity Scholarship, or any other ESA program, are the types of policies that will further empower parents and students to pursue an education tailored to their individual needs and dreams."

#

**Interested Party Testimony to the
Ohio House Education and Career Readiness Committee on House Bill 200**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions
June 20, 2017**

Thank you, Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Opportunity Scholarship. My name is Greg R. Lawson, and I am the Research Fellow at **The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions** here in Columbus.

The Buckeye Institute has long been a champion of school choice. In the early days of the Cleveland Scholarship and the dawn of Ohio charter schools, we defended the right of every parent to seek and provide the education best suited to their children. So we take great pride in Ohio's national leadership in the school choice movement.

The "Opportunity Scholarships" in House Bill 200 will join with other Ohio programs to give families even more education options and opportunities. House Bill 200 will continue to shift the balance of power in education from a bureaucratic establishment to its rightful place-parents.

Despite the exceptional resources devoted to schools and education over the last few decades, we have yet to see academic gains commensurate with those investments. At least one reason we seem unable to reap significant gains lies in our failure to adapt to the changing realities of our new century. Our education model remains stuck in the post-Industrial Age of 20th century mass production while our children-the supposed beneficiaries of that model-live and think in the increasingly made-to-order 21st.

Today our children watch videos on demand -- choosing not only the movie they want to watch, but when and where and how they want to watch it. They expect customized service -- on demand-and they get it, in practically every facet of lives except their education. In the name of modernity and progress, schools today offer digital gadgets-iPads, Smartboards, and Chromebooks-but the education they provide is far from personal, customized, or individually tailored to meet the specific needs of specific students. Education continues to be delivered *en masse* rather than on demand, as if learning is somehow impervious to customization.

Part of the problem still lies with education's bureaucratic entrenchment. And part of the solution remains school choice-the critical process of tearing down the bureaucratic silos of our beleaguered education system.

House Bill 200 and the "Opportunity Scholarship" combine the current EdChoice voucher, the EdChoice income eligible expansion, and the Cleveland Scholarship, and streamline the structure of these programs to simplify the application process and expand the pool of eligible children.

Currently, eligibility for EdChoice scholarships is based upon a failing schools model. This relatively rare structure for voucher programs allows for too much gamesmanship and includes "safe harbor" provisions that have rendered hundreds of otherwise eligible schools ineligible for the program.

And even though the EdChoice expansion scholarship is income-based, its low eligibility threshold restricts its impact. Consequently, thousands of students miss out on significant EdChoice options. By shifting to a single-income eligibility model that allows for

scholarships up to 400 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, House Bill 200 will provide more students with more options.

In addition to improvements afforded by the "Opportunity Scholarship," House Bill 200 also includes education savings accounts -- or ESAs. This innovative school choice feature significantly expands learning options for families. As The Buckeye Institute **recently explained**, ESAs begin to realign the education paradigm toward meeting "consumer" interests, namely, parents, children, and taxpayers. By creating a more responsive education system, ESAs give families the purchasing power to create a customized education for their children, empowering them to order from an à la carte menu of education services, instead of suffering the one-size-fits-all model of education currently provided by their government-assigned local public school. I have attached a copy of **our report** to my testimony for your convenience.

The additional flexibility offered by ESAs distinguishes them from traditional voucher models, making them more like Ohio's Special Needs and Jon Peterson scholarships. ESAs allow parents to purchase textbooks, hire tutors, enroll students in online classes, pay private school tuition, and even save money for college. Not surprisingly, in states that have already implemented ESA programs, parents have expressed their approval.

In 2011, Arizona became the first state to offer education savings accounts, and currently extends that option to children with special needs; children in active duty military families; children of fallen soldiers; children in underperforming schools; children on tribal lands; children entering kindergarten; and siblings of ESA-eligible students.

Two months ago, Arizona expanded her program yet again to include more prospective students. Building on Arizona's groundbreaking efforts, Nevada created a universal ESA option in 2015 for all K-12 students. Since then, Florida, Tennessee, and Mississippi have established ESA opportunities, and many other states are now actively considering proposals to provide or expand ESA options for their families.

We are encouraged to see Ohio joining the ranks of these school choice sister states. House Bill 200 and the "Opportunity Scholarships" will continue Ohio's progress in empowering parents and students to pursue an education tailored to their individual needs and dreams.

Thank you for your time and attention today. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have.

#

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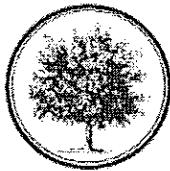
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 21, 2017

The Buckeye Institute's Greg Lawson Urges Ohio to Reduce Bureaucratic Occupational Licensing Requirements

*Lawson Testifies Before the Ohio House Government
Accountability and Oversight Committee*

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified (see full testimony below) today before the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, where he urged the state to remove barriers to employment for thousands of cosmetologists across Ohio. The policies, included in House Bill 189 would make Ohio more competitive, more prosperous, and more attractive to entrepreneurs and their employees.

Highlighting the absurdity in Ohio's occupational licensing requirements, Lawson, a research fellow at The Buckeye Institute, said, "Unfortunately, Ohio cosmetologists must complete 250 more hours of training than their peers in Pennsylvania and 500 more hours than hairdressers in New York. The onerous training required for Ohio's cosmetologists is even more ridiculous when compared to the 150 hours of training required to be a state certified emergency medical technician."

Lawson continued, "With Ohio law currently requiring cosmetologists to have *10 times* the training of basic EMTs, the need for licensing reform doesn't get much clearer."

Citing The Buckeye Institute's report *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*, Lawson revealed that Ohio's occupational licensing burdens are some of the worst in the nation. "Remarkably, nearly every Ohio license that requires training can be earned in less time in another state," said Lawson. "The state certainly needs to require appropriate training and licensing for jobs with health and safety concerns, such as physicians and pilots, and no one disputes this. But such concern fades dramatically when applied, for example, to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers."

In closing, Lawson praised the progress Ohio has made and encouraged further changes that will make Ohio more competitive, more prosperous, and more attractive to entrepreneurs and their employees. "For a state still struggling to create new jobs, relieving these burdens remains imperative...House Bill 189 advances the state's anti-red-tape reform effort and will remove at least some of the occupational licensing obstacles faced by Ohio's working men and women."

#

**Interested Party Testimony to the
Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee on House Bill 189**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions
June 21, 2017**

Thank you, Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 189. My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute** for Public Policy Solutions, a free-market think tank that believes low taxes and limited government regulations will lead to a more prosperous Ohio.

House Bill 189 helps to address Ohio's "over-licensing" problem and will continue the important work started by Senate Bill 213 in the last General Assembly that lowered barriers of entry to Ohio's salon industry. Others have already addressed specific provisions in this bill, so let me just say that The Buckeye Institute generally supports reducing required education hours and we encourage policymakers to embrace license reciprocity with our sister states. After all, licensed cosmetologists in good standing in New York and Massachusetts should not have to clear additional hurdles to provide the same services and earn their living here in Ohio.

Unfortunately, Ohio cosmetologists must complete 250 hours of more training than their peers in Pennsylvania and 500 more hours than hairdressers in New York.^[1] The onerous training required for Ohio's cosmetologists is even more ridiculous when compared to the 150 hours of training required to be a state certified Emergency Medical Technician.^[2] With Ohio law currently requiring cosmetologists to have *10 times* the training of basic EMTs, the need for licensing reform doesn't get much clearer.

Ohio's over-licensing problem extends well beyond the local hair salon. The Buckeye Institute's report *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back* revealed that Ohio's occupational licensing burdens are well above average.^[3] Of Ohio's 31 moderate-income occupations requiring licensure, 15 require hundreds or thousands of hours of training. Remarkably, nearly every Ohio license that requires training can be earned in less time in another state.^[4] The state certainly needs to require appropriate training and licensing for jobs with health and safety concerns, such as physicians and pilots, and no one disputes this. However, such concern fades dramatically when applied, for example, to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers.

Onerous licensing burdens -- essentially requiring workers to ask the government for a permission slip to earn a living -- make Ohio less competitive, less prosperous, and less attractive to entrepreneurs and their employees. Licensing requirements only make finding a job more difficult. Every unnecessary license is a red-taped hurdle that must be cleared. Every hour of unnecessary, unpaid training needed to satisfy bureaucratic requirements is an hour not spent earning tips, impressing a boss, serving a customer, or climbing a corporate ladder. Those are hours of productivity, hours of opportunity that young, low-income workers sorely need, but that the state continues to take away. For a state still struggling to create new jobs, relieving these burdens remains imperative. Although Ohio has done yeoman's work to recover from the Great Recession, she has not yet rebounded from the tech bubble burst and is still down more than 100,000 private sector jobs from March 2000. The state's labor force participation rate has improved, but at just 63.1 percent in April, more remains to be done.^[5]

Even more concerning are the daunting employment prospects faced by many in Ohio's minority communities. Nationally, the unemployment rate among African Americans remains much higher than among other demographics. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the most recent unemployment rate was 7.9 percent for African Americans -- more than double the 3.8 percent unemployment rate for whites.^[6] Similarly, unemployment confronts a staggering 29.3 percent of young African Americans between 16 and 19, and 12.8 percent of young whites.^[7]

Given the relatively high number of African Americans and women in the salon industry, reforming Ohio's cosmetology laws offers a direct response to those alarming statistics.

House Bill 189 advances the state's anti-red-tape reform effort and will remove at least some of the occupational licensing obstacles faced by Ohio's working men and women. Of course, much more than HB 189 is needed and I look forward to exploring additional solutions with you and continuing our conversation on this important issue.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee might have.

[1] Ohio. Rev. Code §4713.28.

[2] Ohio Admin. Code §4765-15-05.

[3] Tom Lampman, ***Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back***, The Buckeye Institute, November 18, 2015.

[4] *Ibid.*

[5] Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, "Employment Situation Indicators for Ohio, April 2017," accessed May 30, 2017.

[6] Bureau of Labor Statistics, "**Table A-2. Employment Status of Civilian Population by Race, Sex, and Age**," U.S. Department of Labor, accessed May 30, 2017.

[7] *Ibid.*

#

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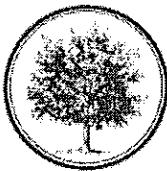
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Onwards to Conference Committee: Ohio's Biennial Budget Passes the Senate

By Greg R. Lawson
June 23, 2017

As always, the state budget, passed every two years, is the single most important piece of legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly. Tax, education, health care, criminal justice, and local government issues are all touched on in this critical legislation. Getting budget policy right means making sure resources are spent wisely on the things government must do. Just as importantly, it means enhancing liberty, creating a better environment for job and economic growth, and securing prosperity for Bob and Betty Buckeye.

The budget that cleared the Senate on June 21 is a very good step forward. However, there is always more that can be done. In this case, there is definitely more spending that

should be reduced and bolder reforms that should be embraced on taxes, education, and health care.

That said, as the next chapter of the budget commences and we move to the all-important Conference Committee, **The Buckeye Institute** has highlighted what has been done right and what can be done to improve the budget.

Spending

The Senate version of the budget decreased Governor Kasich's original All Funds budget by \$3 billion over fiscal years 2018 and 2019. The FY 2018 appropriations is an increase of 2.7 percent over the estimated FY 2017 spending, and the FY 2019 appropriation is 1.5 percent over FY 2018.

By historical budget standards this is positive. The average over the biennium comes in at 2.1 percent. Though this remains above recent inflation and state GDP growth, it tracks more closely than other recent budgets. For example, the **previous biennial budget**, when enacted, was an increase of 7.6 percent in the first fiscal year and 2.1 percent in the second for an average of 4.85 percent over the biennium.

When looking at state-only general revenues, we see an increase of \$370.9 million over the proposed FY 2018-2019 budget when compared to the expected expenditures made in the previous biennium. This is an increase of only .8 percent. Given recent revenue shortfalls, this is important.

A further positive sign is the Senate maintained restraints on the ability of the Controlling Board to increase Medicaid spending. This is wise policy given the serious questions regarding potential changes in federal Medicaid policy.

Despite this positive spending restraint, there are areas where further cuts (see our **Piglet Book**) could be made in order to maintain long-term budget sustainability.

More than \$200 million in increased foundation formula funding for education should be reconsidered. Ohio continues to spend ever-increasing amounts on K-12 education, with limited academic gains to show for it. Ohio needs a much broader conversation in *how* this money is spent.

Also, more than \$770 million in general revenue funding is still being spent as a revenue sharing distribution through the Local Government Fund (LGF). The Buckeye Institute continues to maintain this revenue should be used to further reduce personal income tax

rates across the board. By reducing this revenue sharing, Ohio will empower local residents and taxpayers to hold their local officials accountable for local decisions.

Taxes

Ohio tax reform has led to positive economic growth for the state and this will continue over time as the state shows budget restraint.

Both the Senate and the House made the right call to not raise taxes or shift taxes to particular industries, such as **oil and gas companies**. Both chambers also rightly resisted the urge to hike the tobacco tax, which would open up the door for **smuggling**, in addition to other unintended consequences.

While The Buckeye Institute prefers Governor Kasich's proposal to simplify municipal income tax filings for businesses, the current reform included by the Senate still allows businesses to avail themselves of a simpler system. While this is merely the tip of the iceberg when it comes to reforming Ohio's **singularly unique, complex, and burdensome municipal income tax structure**, it is still a step forward.

Medicaid

The current version contains language pushing the Administration to seek both the **Healthy Ohio waiver** and a **State Innovation waiver**. When combined, these two waivers will control Medicaid costs, create personal responsibility requirements for Medicaid recipients, and will ease the transition to a better private insurance marketplace. These waivers will also include fewer mandates that balloon insurance costs.

The Senate proposal to freeze Medicaid expansion is a prudent step to help focus Medicaid services on the needy. Expansion enrollment has drastically exceeded expectations and an enrollment freeze will enable the state to refocus the program.

One item ripe for Conference Committee consideration is to ensure that the Controlling Board guidelines on Medicaid spending are robust enough to ensure the Administration **must** obtain approval before spending on the expansion.

Criminal Justice Reform

Governor Kasich's budget included an expansion of the **Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison** (TCAP) program, which provides grants to counties to rehabilitate low-level, non-violent offenders locally, a **more effective** approach than prison at a fraction of the cost. Expansion of TCAP would

provide more resources to communities as they deal with the opioid epidemic, increase public safety, and save taxpayer dollars.

The Senate version only binds Ohio's 10 most populous counties to the TCAP program, with the remaining 77 counties participating on a voluntary basis. We are confident, that once the benefits of TCAP are realized, more counties will want to participate.

Agency Review Process

The Buckeye Institute is pleased to see that the Senate has added a provision to the budget that will submit state agencies to efficiency reviews and that the Senate has made it clear they intend for occupational licensing requirements to be a part of that review.

These provisions will ensure state agencies impose the 'least restrictive' regulatory requirement when dealing with occupational licenses, which will help alleviate unnecessary burdens on thousands of Ohioans by making it easier for them to cut through state red tape and start working more quickly.

The inclusion of occupational licensing requirement in these reviews, begin to address issues we discussed in our report *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*.

Conclusion

Now the Conference Committee will begin its work and they should build on the fairly successful efforts made to restrain spending and reform the key driver of increased spending - Medicaid. The committee should also retain sound tax provisions including the municipal income tax reform, criminal justice reforms including TCAP, and retain the administrative agency review process including the new definition regarding least restrictive regulations.

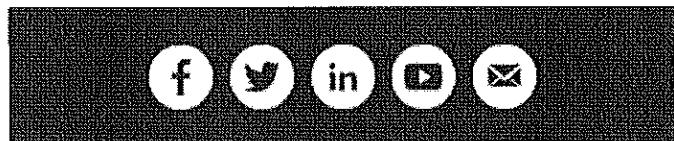
By doing these things, with the addition of more cuts, the committee could further improve an already solid budget.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

#

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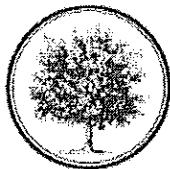
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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 26, 2017

House Bill 289 Introduced, Buckeye Weighs-In on the Need for Occupational Licensing Reform

Columbus, OH - Representative Robert McColley and Representative Ron Hood today introduced important legislation, which will reduce barriers to employment for thousands of Ohioans by requiring the state to impose the least restrictive type of occupational licensing regulation to ensure consumer protection.

The legislation will also establish a sunrise review process on new occupational licensing bills to ensure they meet the least restrictive standard, and the bill will establish a sunset review process of licensing boards to ensure they are necessary protect public health and safety. Over time, the use of these reviews will help clean up antiquated licensing requirements while preventing new ones from cluttering Ohio's laws.

"As legislators, it is our duty to be watchdogs over these licensing agencies to ensure they are not imposing overly burdensome regulations that impose barriers to entry and, ultimately, pick winners and losers. **House Bill 289** does just that by providing oversight to make sure we are not unjustifiably preventing Ohioans from making a living," said Rep. McColley. "We thank The Buckeye Institute and other free-market focused groups for their ongoing input."

The Buckeye Institute has long spoken out on the need to reduce burdens created by bureaucratic **occupational licensing**, a position that is supported by the **Heritage Foundation**, **Cato Institute**, and **Brookings Institute**, and was supported by the **Obama Administration**. In fact, research has shown that Ohio **sacrifices more than 40,000 jobs** due to occupational licensing, and that **18 percent of Ohioans** require a license in order to earn a living in their chosen profession. Further, the **cost of hiring a licensed worker is approximately 15 percent higher** than an unlicensed worker with the same level of experience doing the same job, and families in Ohio could **save \$775 per year** with occupational licensing reform.

"The Buckeye Institute has long argued that we need to lower barriers of entry for all Ohioans into their chosen professions," said Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**. "By making it the policy of the state to be the least restrictive as possible when it comes to occupational licensing, Ohio takes a large step to rolling back and preventing the 'permission slip' approach to regulation that is harming all too many Ohio workers."

#

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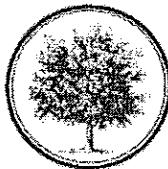
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June 28, 2017

The Buckeye Institute's Greg Lawson: Occupational Licensing Requirements are an Obstacle to Economic Success

Lawson Testifies Before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified (see full testimony below) today before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, where he once again urged the state to remove barriers created by bureaucratic **occupational licensing** requirements that keep Ohioans from earning a living in their chosen profession.

As with the policies in House Bill 189, which **Lawson testified on last week**, the policies in Senate Bill 79 will make Ohio more competitive, more prosperous, and more attractive to entrepreneurs and their employees.

Lawson, the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute, opened his testimony highlighting the broad support reducing burdensome occupational licensing requirements has. "The Buckeye Institute, the **Heritage Foundation**, the **Brookings Institute**, and the **Obama Administration** do not often all agree on an issue. However, we have all agreed on the need to relieve the burdens created by bureaucratic occupational licensing that afflict workers and families with low- to middle-incomes." Lawson continued, "By authorizing legislative panels to weed through Ohio's overgrown thicket of licensing boards, the policy in Senate Bill 79 gives lawmakers a much-needed tool for uprooting bureaucratic thistles that deprive Ohioans of the potential fruits of their labor. Thus, this bill takes a welcome step toward improving Ohio's job market and making it easier for Ohio's working class families to prosper.

While the policies in Senate Bill 79 will make improvements to Ohio's "byzantine" licensing requirements, Lawson noted that further improvements to reduce the negative impacts of licensing requirements can be made. "Senate Bill 79 improves the status quo, but unfortunately it lacks the proverbial teeth necessary to force state licensing boards to prove that they are essential for ensuring public safety rather than merely defending entrenched market interests. The bill could be strengthened by including sunset provisions for state licensing boards and commissions similar to the automatic provisions applied to cabinet agencies."

In closing, Lawson highlighted the negative impact on employment licensing requirements have, particularly in minority communities where unemployment is higher. "Licensing requirements make finding a job more difficult. Every license requirement raises a red-taped hurdle for workers to clear before earning a living or starting a new career. Every hour of unpaid training needed to satisfy bureaucratic requirements is an hour not spent earning tips, impressing a boss, serving a customer, or opening a business. Those are hours of lost productivity, hours of opportunity that young, low-income workers sorely need, but that the state continues to take for itself."

#

**Interested Party Testimony Submitted to the
Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee on Senate Bill 79**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions
June 28, 2017**

Thank you, Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify regarding Senate Bill 79. My name is Greg Lawson and I am the Research Fellow at **The Buckeye Institute** for Public Policy Solutions here in Columbus.

The Buckeye Institute, the **Heritage Foundation**, the **Brookings Institute**, and the **Obama Administration** do not often all agree on an issue. However, we have all agreed on the need to relieve the burdens created by bureaucratic occupational licensing that afflict workers and families with low- to middle-incomes. By authorizing legislative panels to weed through Ohio's overgrown thicket of licensing boards, the policy in Senate Bill 79 gives lawmakers a much-needed tool for uprooting bureaucratic thistles that deprive Ohioans of the potential fruits of their labor. Thus, this bill takes a welcome step toward improving Ohio's job market and making it easier for Ohio's working class families to prosper.

No one disputes that state licensing requirements are needed in many cases and industries to help ensure public safety. Requiring appropriate education and training for physicians, health care providers, pilots, and truck drivers, for example, helps safeguard the general public in our hospitals, roads, and runways. However, these concerns fade dramatically when applied to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers -- all of whom are subject to Ohio's byzantine licensing requirements.

According to the Heritage Foundation, occupational licensing requirements cost the average U.S. household \$1,033 per year.^[1] Analysts across the political spectrum recently revealed significant sources of occupational licensing and their adverse effects on the nation's job and labor markets. As part of the Brookings Institute's Hamilton Project, for instance, researchers discovered that much of the growth in occupational licensing requirements stems from professional associations and not from public interest groups.^[2] Unsurprisingly, their research also showed that stringent licensing requirements result in fewer providers of the services subject to the requirements.^[3]

The Obama Administration echoed these concerns in a July 2015 report issued by the White House that proposed a framework for reducing burdens on those seeking to enter the professional ranks.^[4] Last year, The Buckeye Institute released ***Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back***, which showed not only that Ohio's licensing burdens are well above the national average, but also that nearly every Ohio license that requires training can be earned in less time in another state.^[5]

The ladder to economic prosperity is hard enough to climb without the state making it even harder and more expensive. Fortunately, several provisions in Senate Bill 79 hand the

General Assembly new tools for weeding out some of Ohio's most unnecessary and burdensome licenses. Senate Bill 79 codifies provisions that would automatically sunset cabinet agencies absent specific reauthorization. It authorizes the General Assembly to review Ohio's licensing boards and provides good guidance for how legislative committees should conduct their examinations. It also makes clear that state policy will rely on the "least restrictive form of regulation" as a means of consumer protection.

Those forms of regulation, in order from least to most restrictive, are as follows: market competition; third-party or consumer-created ratings and reviews; private certification; specific private civil cause of action; actions under the Ohio Consumer Sales Practices Act; regulating the process of providing specific goods or services; inspection; bonding or insurance; registration; government certification; specialty occupational license for medical reimbursement; and occupational licensing.

Senate Bill 79 improves the status quo. Unfortunately, it lacks the proverbial teeth necessary to force state licensing boards to prove that they are essential for ensuring public safety rather than merely defending entrenched market interests. The bill could be strengthened by including sunset provisions for state licensing boards and commissions similar to the automatic provisions applied to cabinet agencies.

Policymakers should recognize that requiring workers to ask the government for permission to earn a living makes Ohio *less* competitive, *less* prosperous, and *less* attractive to entrepreneurs and their employees. For a state still struggling to create new jobs, "less" is not more.

Ohio has come a long way since the Great Recession, but it has not yet rebounded from the tech bubble burst and remains down more than 100,000 private sector jobs from its peak in March 2000.^[6] The state's labor force participation rate has improved in recent months and is now slightly higher than the national rate, but in recent years, Ohio has flirted ominously with historically low participation rates. So, although Ohio's job market continues to improve, it still has a long way to go.

Licensing requirements make finding a job more difficult. Every license requirement raises a red-taped hurdle for workers to clear before earning a living or starting a new career. Every hour of unpaid training needed to satisfy bureaucratic requirements is an hour not spent earning tips, impressing a boss, serving a customer, or opening a business. Those are hours of lost productivity, hours of opportunity that young, low-income workers sorely need, but that the state continues to take for itself.

Tragically, such burdens are borne no less lightly by those in Ohio's minority communities -- communities already facing daunting employment prospects. Nationally, the unemployment rate among African Americans remains much higher than among other demographics. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the most recent unemployment rate was 7.5 percent for African Americans -- more than double the 3.7 percent unemployment rate for whites.^[7] Similarly, unemployment confronts a staggering 27.3 percent of young African Americans between 16 and 19, and 11.4 percent of young whites.^[8] Given the relatively high number of African Americans and women in the salon industry.

Reforming Ohio's occupational licensing regime will help remove at least some of the burdens and obstacles to economic success.

Thank you for your time and I welcome any questions that the Committee might have.

[1] Salim Furth, *Costly Mistakes: How Bad Policies Raise the Cost of Living*, Heritage Foundation, November 23, 2015.

[2] Morris M. Kleiner, *Reforming Occupational Licensing Policies*, Brookings Institute, March 2015.

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] The White House, *Occupational Licensing: a Framework for Policymakers*, July 2015.

[5] *Ibid.*

[6] The Buckeye Institute, "Ohio by the Numbers - October 2015," The Buckeye Institute.

[7] Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Table A-2. Employment Status of Civilian Population by Race, Sex, and Age," U.S. Department of Labor, accessed June 26, 2017.

[8] *Ibid.*

#

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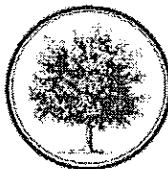
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 28, 2017

Buckeye Institute Experts Weigh-In on Budget Conference Committee Report

Columbus, OH - The Senate and House have passed the Budget Conference Committee Report and experts from **The Buckeye Institute** issued their reactions.

"The final version of the state budget that is heading to Governor Kasich's desk is one of the best budgets we have seen in a while in Ohio," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "While there could have been greater spending reductions, along with greater reform of school funding and local taxes, there was solid spending restraint and efforts to contain Medicaid spending -- the 'Pac-Man' of Ohio's budget. These are all noteworthy accomplishments."

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Several major policies The Buckeye Institute has advocated for made it through the legislative process, including:

- Greater spending restraint;
- Making it clear that the policy of the state is to seek the least restrictive regulations when dealing with occupational licensing;
- Several key criminal justice reforms;
- Reform to business municipal income tax filing;
- Freezing Medicaid expansion enrollment; and
- Setting a deadline for applying for a state innovation waiver in order to regain some control over Ohio's health insurance marketplace.

Spending

"The budget keeps a tighter rein on spending than most recent budgets, with all funds spending in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 increasing by 2.4 percent and 2.1 percent respectively. When looking at just state general revenues, Ohio will spend less in FY2019 than it was projected to spend by the end of the current fiscal year on June 30," said Lawson. "This move to a more sustainable level of state spending will help secure prosperity for Ohioans and their children."

Medicaid

"The General Assembly took a bold step in ensuring that needy Ohioans can get access to the medical care they need. The Assembly's budget calls for changes to the Medicaid program that will boost health care savings for many Medicaid recipients and help move them into private coverage," said **Rea S. Hederman Jr.**, executive vice president at The Buckeye Institute and a nationally recognized expert in healthcare policy. "Ohio became the first state in the nation to call for a freeze on the Medicaid expansion population, which will focus the program on the truly needy and encourage able bodied adults to return to work. Medicaid enrollment has exceeded forecasts on both enrollment and costs, and this budget will help make the program sustainable for the future."

Criminal Justice

"At every step of the budget process, starting with Governor Kasich's original budget through conference committee, Ohio policymakers showed devotion to providing tools and resources to make Ohio communities safer and save taxpayer dollars through criminal justice reform," said **Daniel J. Dew**, legal fellow at The Buckeye Institute's **Legal Center**. "When society sends low-level offenders to prison, taxpayers pay a hefty bill only to see these people come back to our communities alienated from society and more dangerous than when they went in. The governor, the Senate, and the House all recognize that Ohioans deserve a better return on their investment."

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Dew continued, "By providing resources to Ohio communities, the budget's **Target Community Alternatives to Prison** (TCAP) program will allow local judges, law enforcement, and prosecutors to get low-level offenders, many of whom are struggling with addiction and mental health issues, the treatment necessary to help prevent a life of hardened crime. TCAP has been a success in the eight pilot program counties, and as it is adopted around the state, Ohioans everywhere will reap the benefits of evidence-based policy."

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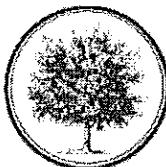
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In case you were wondering what the bloody h-e-double-hockey-stick is happening in the war going on tonight and tomorrow over Ohio's biennial budget, we have a timely update: Governor Kasich--by law--has until Friday to either sign or veto the final budget that was passed today before the new fiscal year begins on Saturday....

Pressure is mounting. All eyes are once again on our beloved state.

In this battle, your Buckeye Institute has indefatigably supplied the intellectual ammunition of good policy to a legislature that was set on trying to do the fiscally responsible thing.

Governor Kasich is big on making choices as to taking one of two paths, and his time for choosing has officially arrived.

There is a fiscally responsible option, which is to sign the budget, and there is a decision that would saddle our children and grandchildren with unsustainable levels of government programs and spending for generations, which is to line-item veto the waiver provisions upon which Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof heroically insisted.

Your Buckeye Institute has spoken up every chance we had--in the thick of negotiations, to the media, and publicly on the record to anyone who would listen.

There is now nothing more that we can do except cross our fingers, hope, and pray to {insert deity of your choice} that Governor Kasich returns to his fiscally conservative roots and proves how firm his friendship is to O-H-I-O.

A few hours ago, Buckeye's Executive Vice President Rea Hederman posted a new piece in The Hill explaining the Medicaid expansion and healthcare issue more fully in an article worth reading, "Ohio is blazing the trail on healthcare reform."

To paraphrase Bill Clinton, the big-government jig is up, friends.

It's time to put Obamacare down to its final resting place and lead these United States back toward freedom and prosperity.

Your call, Mr. Governor.

Let's do it! Let's put Ohio back on the map as the undisputed leader of our nation once again. Blaze that trail. Show the rest of the states how it's done by rejecting Obamacare and securing Ohio the flexibility we need to chart our own path forward in healthcare.

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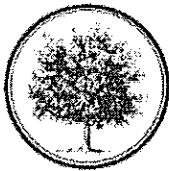
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Buckeye's Rea Hederman has a new piece in *The Hill* looking at the bold health care initiatives that Ohio's General Assembly passed where he says:

"Like many other states across the country, Ohio lawmakers have had enough. Emboldened by the Trump Administration's professed willingness to extend states flexibility on health care and rejoin them at the bargaining table, Ohio will soon be sending Washington Medicaid and state innovation waiver requests designed to curb Medicaid expansion and cut cost overruns."

You can follow Rea on Twitter [@ReaHedermanJr](#).

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Ohio, Blazing the Trail on Health Care Reform

The Hill
By Rea S. Hederman Jr.
June 28, 2017

Ohio is a bellwether state -- it has always has been. So as the U.S. Senate grapples with health care reform legislation and the lingering legacy of ObamaCare, senators would be well-advised to pay attention to the bold health care initiatives that Ohio's General Assembly just passed.

After Ohio Governor John Kasich unilaterally expanded Ohio's Medicaid program in 2013, the state's Medicaid rolls have since ballooned by more than 700,000 people -- 40 percent more than originally projected. The pac-man of virtually every state's budget continues to devour ever-larger chunks of the state's resources and has pushed Ohio's own budget to the brink.

Like many other states across the country, Ohio lawmakers have had enough. Emboldened by the Trump Administration's professed willingness to extend states flexibility on health care and rejoin them at the bargaining table, Ohio will soon be sending Washington Medicaid and state innovation waiver requests designed to curb Medicaid expansion and cut cost overruns.

Ohio's trial balloon will be watched carefully as other states consider their own waivers to help rein-in runaway Medicaid costs and protect their insurance markets.

The state's General Assembly has just insisted that Governor Kasich submit two significant waiver requests to Trump's Administration by early next year. The waivers will reduce Ohio's Medicaid costs and create a more-seamless transition for people moving from Medicaid into affordable private coverage -- something vitally important given the current death spiral of Obamacare exchanges.

First, the Healthy Ohio program will reduce Medicaid costs and help recipients obtain private coverage. Building on the foundation of Healthy Indiana, Healthy Ohio will require non-disabled Medicaid recipients to contribute to a health savings account, or HSA, and earn rewards for embracing healthier lifestyle choices.

Medicaid recipients who do not pay into a HSA within 60 days will lose coverage until they make the appropriate payment. The Healthy Ohio program will reinforce personal responsibility for medical care and help those with limited histories of receiving coverage acclimate to private health insurance markets.

The second waiver, known as a state innovation or 1332 waiver, will ask Washington to waive several costly burdens imposed by Obama-era regulations, including the unpopular individual mandate and many of the coverage mandates forced on consumers participating in Obamacare exchanges.

The U.S. Senate's healthcare bill appears poised to expand the use of 1332 waivers -- and that's a good sign. As someone once said, elections have consequences, and with Trump in town Ohio and several other states stand ready to return their health insurance markets to more competitive, cost-effective days.

In addition to insisting on seeking greater flexibility from Washington, the Ohio Senate and conservatives in the Ohio House won a hard-fought budget battle and managed to freeze the state's expanded Medicaid population.

Individuals already enrolled in the expanded population may remain in the program, but as of July 1, 2018, Ohio will not cover the expanded Medicaid population created under the Obamacare framework. Such a freeze will gradually reduce caseloads and focus Medicaid dollars on the most needy -- and Ohio Senators especially, who stood their ground fighting for these reforms, deserve applause and appreciation for their efforts.

As long as Governor Kasich does not misguidedly veto the Assembly's significant achievements, Ohio will blaze a trail for other states to follow as they try to regain control of their healthcare and insurance markets. And once again, as Ohio goes, so goes the nation.

Rea S. Hederman Jr. is executive vice president and chief operating officer of The Buckeye Institute, a think tank promoting free market principles, and is an expert in healthcare policy.

###

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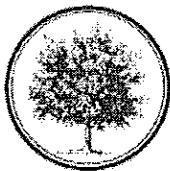
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2017

Buckeye Institute: Kasich Signs Ohio's Budget, Vetoes Critical Medicaid Reform

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute issued the following statement on Governor John Kasich's decision to veto the Medicaid freeze.

"We are disappointed that Governor Kasich did not adhere to the will of the General Assembly in putting guard rails on the Medicaid expansion. His veto of the freeze guarantees that this 'Pac-Man' of the state budget will continue to crowd out other critical spending priorities while not ensuring those enrolled in Medicaid are getting access to the best health care."

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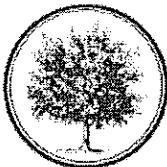
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 6, 2017

Buckeye Experts Weigh-In on House Veto Overrides

Action Restores Legislative Oversight, Begins to Reform Medicaid but Doesn't do Enough, Misses Opportunity to Hold Local Governments Accountable on Spending

Columbus, OH - Today, the Ohio House overrode several of Governor John Kasich's vetoes and The Buckeye Institute's experts weighed-in.

The House overrode the Governor's veto of a measure which restored legislative oversight to approving Medicaid spending increases rather than limiting approval to the Controlling Board. This is a critical measure to ensure that the will of the people, as expressed through their elected representatives, is honored.

"The Administration tried to restrict the legislature's role in overseeing Ohio's budget by limiting its ability to approve spending increases to Medicaid, which currently accounts for 37 percent of the state's budget," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow

at The Buckeye Institute. "By reasserting its proper oversight role, the Ohio House has sent a clear signal that it, as the elected representatives of the people, is the proper body to approve spending increases."

Lawson continued, "Unfortunately, the House failed to bring up an override of the misguided veto of the Medicaid expansion freeze, which would have further ensured that the program is made sustainable and is focused on the truly needy. Under the Medicaid expansion, the program was originally projected to grow to 440,000 by 2020, but has well exceeded that estimate and currently stands at more than 700,000. If the program isn't reformed, it will crowd out all other important spending priorities and we will saddle our children and grandchildren with unsustainable levels of government spending for generations."

The Ohio House also overrode the Governor's veto of the Healthy Ohio waiver. This override puts back into place the requirement that the Administration submit the waiver request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Healthy Ohio is just one part of improving Ohio's Medicaid system and ensuring it is sustainable for the neediest Ohioans," said **Rea S. Hederman Jr.**, executive vice president at The Buckeye Institute and a nationally recognized expert in health care policy. "The program will enable non-disabled Medicaid recipients to contribute to a health savings account and allow them to use that money to purchase private health insurance, giving them access to better quality health care and rewarding them for embracing healthier lifestyle choices."

Unfortunately, the House overrode the Governor's veto of the Medicaid managed care sales tax replacement plan.

"Despite our disagreement with Governor Kasich on vetoing the Medicaid freeze, we were glad he vetoed the proposed replacement for local Medicaid sales tax revenues. It is disappointing the Ohio House has again re-instituted this bad policy," Lawson. "It was obvious that the federal government was going to disallow this tax on Medicaid managed care organizations, and local governments and transit authorities should have known not to rely on this money to fund local services. By overriding the governor's veto, the House has enabled local governments to blame Columbus for 'cutting' funding whenever they want to avoid making tough spending decisions at home rather than do the hard work of making the most efficient use of every local dollar spent."

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Welcome To OCMH'S News You Can Use for Monday, July 24, 2017!!!

Cancer and Related News "See attachment"

Public Notice Request for Proposals

The Ohio Commission on Minority Health announces the availability of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Minority Health Month 2018 – Round 2. The RFP outlining grant requirements and technical assistance information will be available on our website on August 7, 2017 at www.mih.ohio.gov or contact: Ohio Commission on Minority Health, 77 S. High Street, 18th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215 - 614-466-4000. The deadline for submission is 5:00 pm on September 18, 2017.

HANNAH NEWS UPDATE: House Overrides 11 Budget Vetoes But Leaves Medicaid Expansion Question Pending

This morning, the House of Representatives overrode 11 of the governor's 47 budget vetoes, seven of which addressed various aspects of the Medicaid program. However,

the veto of the freeze on Medicaid expansion has been left pending. See Thursday's *Hannah Report* for more details.

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Public Comment Survey

The Federal Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program is the nation's oldest federal-state partnership aimed at promoting and improving the health, safety, and wellbeing of MCH populations. The MCH Block Grant provides a foundation for funding services to ensure the health of Ohio's mothers, women, children and youth, including children and youth with special health care needs, and their families.

The Ohio Department of Health, Office of Health Improvement and Wellness (OHIW), Bureau of Maternal, Child and Family Health, is charged with administering the Title V MCH Block Grant Program in Ohio. Part of that charge involves soliciting feedback annually regarding the strategies, objectives, activities and performance measures used to address the most critical needs for MCH populations across Ohio. We are currently in the second year of a 5-year cycle. The strategies submitted in this year's Block Grant application are the basis for our work over the 5-year period. We invite and encourage you to take the survey and share your comments with us.

Click here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BlockGrantSurvey> to access the survey. This survey is open for a 30 day public comment period.

Please share this information with your staff and stakeholders (local organizations, advisory groups, sub grantees, consumer groups, etc.) across the state. We ask that you let us know who you have forwarded this announcement to so we can track our outreach.

Attend HPIO's forum "Linking health and wealth: How economic vitality can lead to healthier Ohioans"

In order to be healthy, we all need the opportunity to earn a sufficient income and live in affordable, safe providers, insurers and health departments increasingly are held accountable for improving population health. Addressing poverty and fostering economic vitality becomes even more important. Policymakers often cite the state's economic climate, however opinions on how to best accomplish this goal vary.

This forum explores state policy options to improve health outcomes and health equity by increasing economic development, labor force participation and income mobility.

Speakers include:

- * **Anjum Hajat**, University of Washington School of Public Health
- * **David Norris**, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity
- * **David Lipsetz**, Housing Assistance Council
- * **Hannah Halbert**, Policy Matters Ohio
- * **Rea Hederman**, The Buckeye Institute
- * And more to be announced!

Lunch will be served (vegetarian options available) Registration begins at 9:00 with program starting at 10:00 a.m. The general attendance fee is \$65

Register Now!

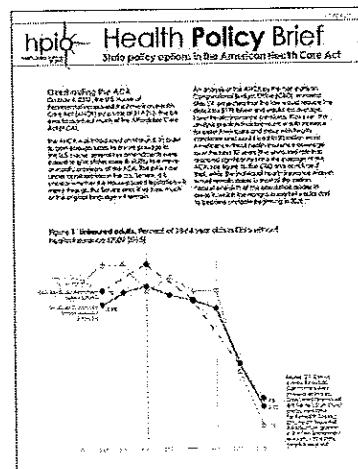
HPIO has a limited number of PARTIAL scholarships available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please contact Hailey Akah at hakah@hpio.net.

HPIO brief explores American Health Care Act decisions for states

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio has released its latest policy brief, "State policy options in the American Health Care Act."

Last month, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Health Care Act, a bill aimed at overhauling much of the Affordable Care Act. Although the AHCA is sometimes referred to as a bill to "repeal and replace" the ACA, it leaves many of the decisions to alter the 2010 health reform law in the hands of states.

Given the considerable flexibility in the AHCA for states, Ohio policymakers will have additional policy options available to them if the current bill is signed into law. The new HPIO publication highlights some



of the areas in which Ohio policymakers will encounter new decision points.

In addition, the publication estimates changes to 2017 individual marketplace premiums had ACHA provisions been in place during the most-recent open enrollment period. **County profiles** with estimated premiums for various ages and incomes, as well as county-level marketplace enrollment data, are posted for a number of Ohio counties.

Region 7 Weekly Updates July 17, 2017



Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Region VII (MO, IA, KS, and NE)

Region VII Weekly Update ~ July 17, 2017

Gear Up for World Hepatitis Day on July 28th

Viral hepatitis affects more than 400 million people worldwide and has led to more than 1.3 million deaths globally in 2015. In the United States, an estimated 4 million people are chronically infected and more than 21,000 people died of hepatitis B and hepatitis C-related causes in 2015. Driven by the opioid epidemic, we are losing ground in the fight against new viral hepatitis infections; progress on hepatitis B prevention has stalled and some states have seen increases; and new hepatitis C infections have increased almost 300% from 2010 to 2015.

On July 28th, [World Hepatitis Day](#), join the [World Hepatitis Alliance](#) and other international partners to raise awareness, expand testing, improve care & treatment, and make progress towards global viral hepatitis elimination. This year's theme is **Eliminate Hepatitis**, and a variety of resources are available to get involved and share information with your networks. Learn more and do more by:

- Downloading World Hepatitis Day [campaign materials](#) (available in multiple languages)
- Reading and sharing CDC's [Resources for World Hepatitis Day](#)
- Using the [National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan](#) to join U.S. efforts to put us on a path toward [#NOhep](#)
- Using the hashtags [#WorldHepatitisDay](#), [#ShowYourFace](#), and [#NOhep](#)
- Joining the [#ShowYourFace](#) [thunderclap](#)
- Finding World Hepatitis Day [events](#) near you, and submitting your own

Healthy People 2020 Health Disparities Data Widget

The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) and the Office of Minority Health (OMH) are pleased to announce the release of a new [HealthyPeople.gov](#) data search function. The Health Disparities widget is a new way for you to access this health disparities information.

The new widget provides an easy way to find health disparities data related to the Healthy People 2020 objectives for the Leading Health Indicators (LHIs). LHIs are critical health issues that when addressed will help reduce the leading causes of death and preventable illnesses.

It's easy to embed the widget on your site and give your stakeholders easy access to the latest available disparities data. Once you've added the widget, there's no technical maintenance required. The content will update automatically with the latest available data.

The widget provides charts and graphs of disparities data at your fingertips. Use the widget to browse data by:

- Disparity type—including disability, education, income, location, race and ethnicity, and sex)
- Leading Health Indicator

Explore, use and share the widget to help inform issues related to health equity.

Are you hosting an event or want to inform people about your agency's program? If so, please forward information (including date, time, brief narrative, along with a contact person for inclusion within the weekly updates to Janet Greene (Janet.Greene@hhs.gov) or Corstella Henley (Corstella.Henley@hhs.gov) for review and consideration.

Upcoming Events and Trainings

Integrating Historic Food Ways into Current Healthcare Practices - IHS CE

The Indian Health Service is hosting an online webinar, Integrating Historic Food Ways into Current Healthcare Practices on Wednesday, July 26th at 3pm EDT/2pm CDT/1pm

MDT/12pm PDT/11am AKDT. For more information and the link to join the session, visit [IHS Diabetes Online CME/CE Education webpage.](#)

July 31st - Mountain States RHEC's Native American Cultural Competency Webinar Series: Cultural Needs Assessments for Health for Providers Working with Tribal Communities

The Mountain States Regional Health Equity Council (RHEC) aims to end health disparities in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. One of its main priorities is to provide education and awareness of cultural and linguistic competency within the region. The RHEC is hosting a webinar training series on the history of tribes and treaties, utilization of Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services standards (National CLAS Standards) and cultural sensitivity when working with tribal communities, and the impact of cultural needs assessments. Upon completion of this webinar, the participants will be able to do the following from the specific tribal perspective:

- Describe the diversity of existing health care in Indian Country and explain the wide and varying differences in tribal health perspectives and cultures of health
- Share examples of best and promising practices of cultural competency aligned with the CLAS Standards
- Increase awareness of health equity challenges in tribal communities through the lens of health and cultural needs assessments

DATE: July 31, 2017

TIME: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Mountain Time

Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybtm3wak>

Complex Connections: Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Substance Abuse and Recovery

Tuesday, August 1, 2017, 2:00-3:30 P.M. EST

REGISTER HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/relationshipsmatter5>

Intimate partner violence (IPV) and women's substance abuse are often intertwined. Some

women turn to substances to cope with the trauma of IPV, and others are coerced into using substances by an abusive partner. High rates of substance abuse among women seeking domestic violence (DV) services, along with high rates of IPV among women seeking substance abuse treatment, underscore the need for an integrated approach. However, DV programs are often unprepared to support women around substance abuse, just as behavioral health providers are often unprepared to identify and respond to IPV. This webinar focuses on ways behavioral health and DV service providers can work together to address the complex range of issues women face in trying to find safety, access recovery services, and heal from the trauma of IPV.

Diagnosis, Prevention, and Treatment of Syphilis and HIV — A Healthy People 2020 Progress Review Webinar New!

[Register Now](#) | August 1, 2017 | 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. ET

Join us on Tuesday, August 1 at 12:30 p.m. ET for a Progress Review webinar featuring 2 Healthy People 2020 topic areas:

- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- HIV

You'll also learn how the Bureau of Infectious Diseases in the Louisiana Department of Health is addressing syphilis and HIV. You can find a complete list of presenters on the registration page.

Register today!

The Impact of Social and Cultural Values on Breastfeeding Practice and Strategies to Address Disparities

August 3, 2017, 8:30 - 10:30 am ET

For a full description of this program please visit our [website](#) or [informational flyer](#).

Handouts will be on our [website](#) the day before the program.

All of our programs are available [On Demand](#) 2 weeks after the live webcast.

[Click Here to Register](#)

The 2017 AHSR Conference will be in Madison, Wisconsin

When: Oct. 18-20, 2017

Who: Dr. Randall Brown and colleagues from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health

Contact: DFMCHAHSR2017@fammed.wisc.edu

Website: fammed.wisc.edu/ahsr2017

Registration is now open »

Early Bird (until 7/31) = \$475

Regular (after 7/31) = \$600

Student (undergrad, grad, medical students only – please no residents, fellows or post-docs) = \$375

Location: Monona Terrace, a meeting space designed by Frank Lloyd Wright

One John Nolen Drive

Madison, WI 53703

Lodging: Hilton Madison Monona Terrace

9 E Wilson St, Madison, WI 53703 *mention AHSR 2017 when booking

Missouri

Missouri Rural Health Conference: Registration is now open!

Please join The Missouri Rural Health Association, Missouri Hospital Association, Missouri Primary Care Association and Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Primary Care, as Collaborating Partners on August 15-17, 2017 at The Lodge at Old Kinderhook, Camdenton, Missouri for the 2017 Missouri Rural Health Conference. These organizations are combining forces to bring the most up-to-date information and trends to Missouri's rural health providers.

This year's conference focus continues with access to care to improve health outcomes of rural residents by bringing hospitals, FQHC's, physicians, clinicians, health departments, in-home and community front-line workers, community and social agencies, policy makers, CEO's, CFO's, transportation and ambulance professionals, together to learn, understand and build bridges to find solutions for breaking down barriers and increasing health access for all. Please click here to [register](#).

Grants 101 Workshop & VDC Grant Writing Training (August 22 - 25, Kansas City)

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health (OMH) and the Kansas City Quality Improvement Consortium, are hosting a Grants 101 Workshop.

Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2017

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

*Registration starts at 8:00 am. Lunch will not be provided.

Location: Kauffman Foundation Conference Center - 4801 Rockhill Rd, Kansas City, MO 64110

Audience: Community and Faith-based Organizations, Hospitals, Health Centers, Community Colleges, Public Health Departments, Tribes

Topics at a Glance:

- Grants 101: The Federal Grant Application Process
- Federal Funding Opportunities
- Technical Assistance and Resources
- Engaging and Collaborating with Foundations
- Common Mistakes and Important Tips

To register for this free workshop go to <https://kcgrants101workshop.eventbrite.com/>

**The 2017 Neighborhood Urban Community Garden-Orchard Walk and Total Man
CDC Annual Fall Festival will be Saturday, September 9, 2017.**

Santa Fe, Key Coalition and Oak Park urban community gardeners promote this annual walk to bring awareness to community garden- orchard sites within our neighborhoods and to encourage residents, families, neighbors and others to use these sites as walking destinations. This annual walk offers a chance to inspire walking within the neighborhood as a healthy physical activity for all ages and to allow local residents an opportunity to obtain fresh grown produce.

We would welcome companies, or organizations help in publicizing this upcoming Urban Neighborhood Community Garden -Orchard Walk. We are also asking for donations to help with the cost of printing street signs that indicates miles and directions, cases of water, PowerAde, Gatorade and /or snack bars for participating walkers.

Registered walkers will have a chance to visit and tour six-community gardens, four orchards and one aquaponic site. On-site registration for the Urban Neighborhood Community Garden -Orchard Walk will begin at 8:30 am and end at 9:30 am. Registered walkers can start walking at 9:00 am and end whenever they reach the Fall Festival location at 3100 East 31st Street.

If you have any questions, please contact me, at 816-377-9068 or email
tonigat@swbell.net

LEVERAGING SOCIAL MEDIA & DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Facilitated by: Jake Lowen and Sean Soendker Nicholson, GPS Impact

Kauffman Foundation Conference Center

September 29, 2017

8:30am – 11:30am

At this interactive workshop, learn how to strengthen your advocacy efforts by leveraging best practices for common social media platforms and organizational websites. We will review the most popular digital communication tool sets, discuss nonprofit sector benchmarks and identify potential goals for your organization. Participants will receive a resource list and toolkit for integrating social media strategies into your advocacy efforts.

3rd Annual LGBTQ Senior Summit

Registration is now open for our 3rd Annual LGBTQ Senior Summit! **This year's summit will be held on Saturday, August 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Grand View University Student Center.**

2017 Mental Health Conference

October 3, 2017

Holiday Inn Airport

6111 Fleur Drive

Des Moines, IA 50321

The 2017 Mental Health Conference is designed for professionals, clinicians, administrators, educators, consumers, family members, advocates, and other providers.

Conference Audience and Objectives:

- Provide an educational opportunity to hear professionals and experts share the most recent trends and issues, treatment methods, and research relating to mental

health, mental illness, and co-occurring disorders.

- Provide a forum to stimulate discussion, exchange ideas, and strengthen the support and information network around the state.
- Generate public interest in issues relating to mental health and co-occurring disorders.

Iowa One Health Conference

The upcoming second annual 2017 Iowa One Health Conference will bring together a multidisciplinary cast of students and professionals in relevant fields to learn and discuss how the concept of One Health can help drive positive change in the health of humans, animals, and the environment.

Planning for IOHC 2017 is currently underway. Stay tuned on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for updates!

Event 2nd Annual 2017 Iowa One Health Conference
Date Saturday, October 14th, 2017
Time 9:00AM – 5:00 PM
Location University of Iowa College of Public Health Building
Cost TBD
2017 conference registration: to be announced.

For poster presenters, click [here](#).

For travel information, click [here](#).

To find out more about the Inaugural 2016 Iowa One Health Conference, click [here](#).

Nebraska

2017 Rural Health Conference

September 20 – 21, 2017

Younes Conference Center

Kearney, NE

Nebraska Rural Health Conference bring together residents of rural Nebraska communities, rural health professionals of all specialties representatives of state, local, and national governments, and the full range of private sector rural health organizations.

For more information: nebraskaruralhealth.org

Nebraska Public Health Association Conference

September 22, 2017

Embassy Suites in Lincoln, NE

Call for presentations and posters at publichealthne.org

Kansas

Fall 2017 Technical Assistance Cluster: Integrating Advocacy into Your Organization

Overview: Making advocacy part of your nonprofit organization's work does not necessarily mean hiring new staff! Melinda Lewis will work with teams to develop strategies for engaging leadership, staff, volunteers and clients as advocates and champions for their

mission.

Meeting Schedule: Four (4) two-hour sessions; 9:00am – 11:00am

October 4, 17 and November 1, 2017

REACH Healthcare Foundation

6700 Antioch Rd # 200 Overland Park, KS 66204

November 14, 2017

Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City's Training Room

5960 Dearborn St, Ste 100 Mission, KS 66202

To apply for your organization to participate in the Fall 2017 Technical Assistance Cluster, [click here](#) for the application and brief assessment. Once completed, please submit your application and brief assessment to meganf@supportkc.org. Space is limited.

Deadline to apply is July 14, 2017.

Organizations will be notified on August 9, 2017 to confirm participation

Funding Opportunities

New FY 2017 Funding Opportunity Announcement

The Office of Minority Health (OMH) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services administers cooperative agreement and grant programs to support projects that implement innovative models to improve minority health and reduce health disparities.

OMH has released a new competitive funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for which applications are now being accepted. Applications are due by August 1, 2017 at 5 PM ET.

Announcement Number: MP-CPI-17-004

Opportunity Title: Empowered Communities for a Healthier Nation Initiative

Estimated Funding Level: \$5 million per one-year budget period, for a project period of three years

The Office of Minority Health (OMH) at the United States Department of Health and Human Services announces the availability of Fiscal Year 2017 cooperative agreement funds for the Empowered Communities for a Healthier Nation Initiative. The Empowered Communities for a Healthier Nation Initiative seeks to reduce significant health disparities impacting racial and ethnic minorities and/or disadvantaged populations through implementing evidence-based strategies with the greatest potential for impact.

The program is intended to serve residents in communities disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic; childhood/adolescent obesity; and serious mental illness.

Learn more about this FOA and how to apply.

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control - NCCDPHP
PPHF-2017-Building Public Health Infrastructure in Tribal Communities to Accelerate Disease Prevention and Health Promotion in Indian Country Synopsis 1
<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=295254>

Department of Justice
Office for Victims of Crime
OVC FY 17 Vision 21: Integrated Services for Victims Program: Increasing Access to Mental Health Services for Victims of Crime Synopsis 2
<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=295072>

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control - OSTLTS
Building Capacity of the Public Health System to Improve Population Health through National, Nonprofit Organizations, financed in part by 2017 Prevention and Public Health Funds Synopsis 5
<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=292861>

Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Community Living
Diversity and Inclusion Training Action Plan Implementation Grant Synopsis 1
<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=292433>

LACTATION SUPPORT MINI-GRANT FOR BUSINESSES

The Missouri Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite Program is a state-wide initiative to increase employer support for breastfeeding mothers. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is offering up to \$500 to a limited number of Missouri employers to create or improve their lactation support policies and programs. For example, funds may be used on locks on doors, privacy screens/partitions, comfortable chair, table or other flat surface to hold a breast pump, or signs. To be eligible to receive a mini-grant, the employer must submit their breastfeeding support policy which must be in compliance with the breastfeeding support requirements from the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Applications can be found [here](#). To apply, please complete the application and budget, and

submit by September 1 to marcia.davis@health.mo.gov. Please call 573-522-2820 with any questions.

NIH Grants - How to Apply Video Tutorials

New to the NIH grant process? Ever wish someone would explain and walk you through applying for NIH grants step by step? If so, the [new page](#) from NIH Office of Extramural Research may be just for you.

Linked from the How to Apply page, you will find [four new interactive tutorials](#) on the basics of preparing, writing, and submitting your application. Tutorials take between 4 to 11 minutes each to listen through, and you can easily jump ahead to chapters of interest, or navigate back to review something you've missed. These tutorials link to additional resources and transcripts.

Rural Health Opioid Program

Grant Opportunity from HHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

This announcement solicits applications for the Rural Health Opioid Program (RHOP). The purpose of RHOP is to promote rural health care services outreach by expanding the delivery of opioid related health care services to rural communities. The program will reduce the morbidity and mortality related to opioid overdoses in rural communities through the development of broad community consortiums to prepare individuals with opioid-use disorder (OUD) to start treatment, implement care coordination practices to organize patient care activities, The program supports three (3) years of funding. This program incorporates a range of objectives to respond comprehensively to the opioid crisis within rural communities. For more information visit the [Rural Health Opioid Program Grant Opportunity](#).

Grant Opportunities provided by Norris Consulting

**Visit the link for a listing of ongoing grant
opportunities: <http://www.norrisconsultinggroup.com/pages/news.htm>**

Employment and Internship Opportunities

Resources and Publication

Public Comment on Draft Research Plan: Screening for Hepatitis B Virus Infection in Pregnant Women

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force posted today a draft research plan on screening for hepatitis B virus infection in pregnant women. The draft research plan is available for review and public comment from July 13, 2017 through August 9, 2017. To review the draft research plan and submit comments, go to <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/us-preventive-services-task-force-opportunities-for-public-comment>.

Participate in the Healthy People 2030 Planning Process!

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is soliciting written comments on the proposed framework for Healthy People 2030 developed by the [Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030](#). The Healthy People 2030 framework refers to the Healthy People 2030 vision, mission, overarching goals, foundational principles, and plan of action. Public comment is an essential part of developing Healthy People. Members of the public — both individuals and organizations — are invited to [submit comments](#) on the proposed framework. The online public comment period is open through September 29, 2017.

Comments received during this public comment period will be carefully reviewed by HHS. You will be able to comment on individual components of the framework report. Comments should be clear and concise and be specific to the proposed concepts and language. For questions about public comments, please contact HP2030@hhs.gov.

AHRQ and Data from the Opioid Crisis

In the recent [AHRQ Views](#), researcher Anne Elixhauser discusses published statistics about the opioid crisis from newspapers and government databases such as AHRQ's [Shining a Spotlight on the Opioid Crisis Through the Power of Data](#) covers how AHRQ's Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) database has information about

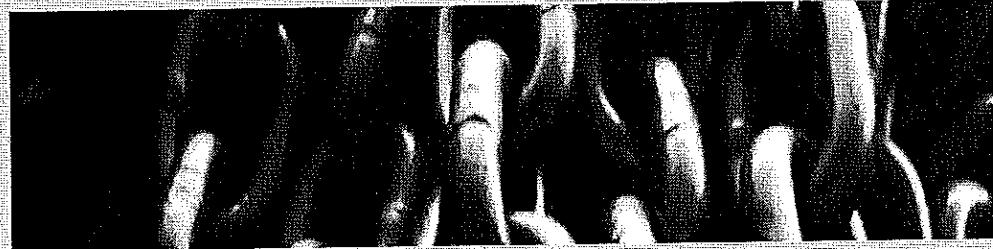
hospitalizations and emergency room visits.

AHRQ also recently came out with the following report: [Patient Characteristics of Opioid-Related Inpatient Stays and Emergency Department Visits Nationally and by State, 2014](#). This document breaks the statistics down by sex, states and age groups. It gives a very visual display of the opioid crisis.

LGBT Aging Cultural Competency Trainings

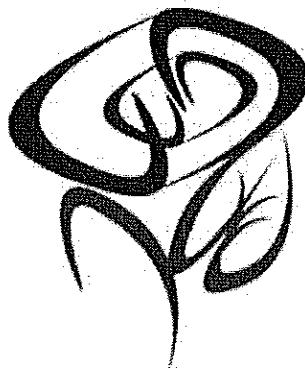
Cultural competency training is the foundation for all person-directed care, but it can be difficult to locate high-quality training content. The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging provides information regarding various training programs designed and facilitated by leaders in LGBT aging advocacy and cultural competency. [Cultural competency training](#) is available at all levels.

Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition
Presents:



**State of Mental Health Disparities
in the African American
Community Conference**

The Case for Correcting Cultural Trauma



**NORTHEAST OHIO
Black Health Coalition**
Educate, Advocate, Empower

Keynote Presenter

Developing an African
Centered
Mental Health Center to
Reduce
Mental Health Disparities



Dr. John E.
Queener Jr.,
Ph.D.
Chief Program
Director
Minority
Behavioral
Health Group

August 18-19,
2017



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44122
216.464.5950

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this event will sell out!

REGISTER NOW

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

Research and Reduce Mental Health Disparities in
the African American Community, at
August Conference

Cleveland made national headlines in April, when
Steve Stephens randomly murdered Robert
Godwin and posted video of the act to Facebook.
When Stephens took his own life, at the end of a

Cultural Competency Presentation

The Importance of Cultural Competency in Mental Health Treatment



Simone Crawley
Executive
Director
Multiethnic
Advocates for
Cultural
Competence, Inc.

widely publicized two-day manhunt, that was the end of the story for many.

For mental health professionals, however, the story doesn't end there and certainly didn't begin just two days earlier. According to specialists, a long build-up frequently precedes seemingly sudden outbursts of violence. Yet America's mental health system fails minorities, including African Americans like Stephens, more often than the population as a whole.

Health professionals have recognized this disparity for years, and identified various factors at work. Yvonka Hall of Cleveland hopes to facilitate bringing these strands of research together to produce practical solutions.

The Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition, which Hall leads, is presenting the "State of Mental Health Disparities in the African American Community Conference: The Case for Correcting Cultural Trauma" in August. "We saw the need for a comprehensive approach to the issues impacting the community as a whole," says Hall.

Both trauma and cultural competency are among the factors which experts see disadvantaging the African American community. The University of Connecticut's Center for Mental Health Disparities says that "many ethnoracial minorities experience cumulative experiences of racism as traumatic, with perhaps a minor event acting as 'the last straw' in triggering trauma reactions." Yet many clinicians overlook the cumulative effect of ongoing racial discrimination, they add.

Plenary Panel Presenters

Creating a Well Rounded Approach to Address African American Mental Health Starts with Community Organizations



**Cheryl A. Boyce,
MS
Ohio Federation
for Health Equity
and Social
Justice**



**Angela C.
Dawson, MS,**

In combination with other cultural blind spots, systemic barriers including cost have held back effective mental health care for minority communities, according to the American Psychological Association.

Hall says that the August conference will be an opportunity not only to catch up on these issues, but to do real work developing better responses. "The conference will examine the state of mental health disparities through historical documentation, systems exploration and personal testimonies," she says.

"This conference is a unique blend of the issues but also includes solutions," too, says Hall. A range of expert panelists will join attendees in breakout sessions, to explore policy responses for every level, from local communities up to state and national programs.

Nationally recognized award-winning author Julius Bailey, Ph.D., will be part of the conference. Its line-up also includes Ohio state Senator Charleta B. Taveres, and the chair of Case Western Reserve University's Bolton School of Nursing, Faye A. Gary, Ed.D, RN, FAAN. A community organizations panel discussion will feature the NAACP and groups from around the country.

The State of Mental Health Disparities in the African American Community Conference begins at noon on Friday, August 18, and continues on August 19 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The conference will take place at Doubletree by Hilton, 3663 Park East Drive in Beachwood. (To book

**MRC, LPC
Ohio Commission
on Minority
Health**



**Yvonka Marie
Hall, MPA
Northeast Ohio
Black
Health Coalition**



**Reverend Keron
R. Sadler
National NAACP**



accommodation at a conference rate, guests may call 216-464-5950.)

Conference registration is \$100, which includes breakfast, lunch and program materials.

Professional CEUs are also available in several fields. Guests can register online at mentalhealthdisparitiesconference.eventbrite.com or by mail; checks should be made to NEO Black Health Coalition, PO Box 221442, Beachwood, OH 44122.

For more information, call 216-295-0283 or visit neoblackhealthcoalition.org.

About Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition

NEO Black Health Coalition's vision is to achieve health parity (equality) in the African American/Black population.

NEOBHC's mission is to address disparities and inequities in education, employment housing, health and the impact on African American health disparities by working to empower, educate and advocate for under-served populations.

About Yvonka Hall

Yvonka Marie Hall is the Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition. She is a nationally recognized health disparities expert and serves as an advisor to numerous organizations.

The 1974 murder of her mother dramatically changed her life; her childhood promise to use her life to help others has lead to the creation of cutting edge programs and impacted thousands

**Patricia Taylor
McManus, PhD.,
RN, GCNPM**

**Black
Health Coalition
of Wisconsin**

Breakout

Session Presenters



**William E. Ajay,
Ph.D.
Licensed Clinical
Psychologist**

**Louis Stokes
Cleveland
Veterans Affairs
Medical Center**

**Coming Home:
PTSD and
African American
Veteran's**

of people's lives. After the murders of her mother Yvonne, younger brother Antoine and best friend Tracey, she dedicated her life to working for the disenfranchised.

She served as Director of the Cleveland Office of Minority Health and the Northeast Ohio Director of Cultural Health Initiatives for the American Heart Association. She is a graduate of Texas Southern University and Notre Dame College of Ohio. She has the distinguished honor of being a Robert Wood Johnson Fellow.

####

According to the U.S. HHS on Minority Health:

African American adults are more likely to have feelings of sadness, hopelessness and worthlessness than adult whites.

African Americans living below poverty are three times more likely to report serious psychological distress than those living above poverty.

African American teenagers are more likely to attempt suicide than are white teenagers.

**Let's change the conversation and end
the stigma around mental health
among
African Americans!**



**Iris Bailey
President and
Clinical
Supervisor
Pipeline to God
Communications,
Inc.**

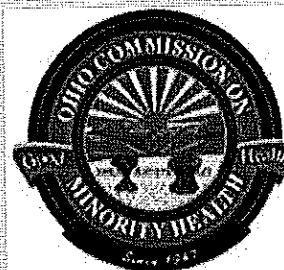
REGISTER NOW



Social Work,
Counselors, Marriage &
Family Therapist,
Nursing, Education,
Chemical Dependency
Counselors, Attorneys

**Our Kids Matter:
A Mental Health
Roadmap for
Helping Moms,
Dads &
Caregivers of
Young Children**

Our Sponsors





**Julius Bailey,
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Associate
Professor of
Philosophy, and
Award-winning
Author**

**Wittenberg
University
On
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the Edge: Race,
Pop Culture
and Mental Health**



**Laureen Bobo
Co-Director
Hope for Widows**



Foundation

**Straight Outta
Grief: The
Invisible
Man/Woman
in Da Hood**

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**Getting the Lead
Out of Your
Brain, Organs and
Nervous System
and the Link
Between
Behavioral
Problems**



**Nichole M. Cobb,
LISW-S, SAP,
OCPC
President
Kingdom
Developers
Consulting, Inc.**

**Mental Health
Issues of Black
Seniors:
Prevalence,
Presentation and
Prevention
&
Postpartum
Depression:
Risks, Reality
and Recovery**



**Tracee' L. Black Fall
Founder and
Executive Director
Tova's N.E.S.T.**

**Whose Knocking at
Your
Door: Mental Health &
the Black Church**



**Faye A. Gary,
N.D, RN, FAAN
Medical Mutual of
Ohio Kent W.
Clapp Chair,
Professor of
Nursing**

**Bolton School of
Nursing,
Case Western
Reserve
University**

**Searching for the
Truth:Health
Professionals
Role in Mental
Health Treatment**



**Janette Graddic,
M.Ed., LPC
Owner
Therapeutic Life
Changers LLC**

**African American
Clergy:
When the Call is
About You**



**Karen L. Graves,
LPCC
Executive
Director
Exodus Clinical
Counseling
Services**

**I'm Not Your
Superwoman:
Dismantling the
Myth of the Angry
Black Woman**



**Edward Hall, Ph.D.
Professor of
Pediatrics,
Psychiatry, and
Psychological**

**Sciences
University Hospitals
Cleveland Medical
Center**

**Strange Fruit:
The
Misdiagnosis of Black
Boys**



**Robyn C. Hill,
LPCC
therapist
Robyn Hill
Counseling &
Associates**

**Next Stop
Jail: Mental Health
Mistreatment in
the Hood**



**Sylvester Huston,
Ph.D.
Retired Professor
and Clinical
Psychologist
Stark State
College**

**Our Minds Matter:
Resiliency
Resources for
African American
Males**



**Kim Jordan,
LPCC-S
Readjustment
Counseling
Therapist
Department of
Veteran Affairs**

**Healing for the
Combat Veteran
and their Families**



**Dakota King-
White, Ph.D.
Assistant
Professor
Cleveland State**

University

**The Impact of
Trauma on
Minority Children
and Effective
Strategies to
Help them to
Succeed**

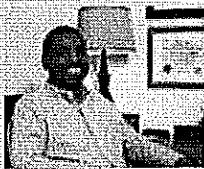


**Cheryl J. Lindsey,
SSA, LISW-S,
LICDC-CS, SAP**

**Co-Owner
Cornerstone
Marriage and
Family
Counseling**

**Stormy Weather:
The
Intersection of**

**Foster Care
and Mental Health**



**Albert McIntosh
Owner and Clinical
Director
Hope Behavioral
Health LLC**

**I Am A Man:
The State of Black
Men's Mental Health**



**Rebecca A.
Maurer
Ohio Legal
Assistance
Foundation**

**Justice for All
Fellow at the
Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland.**

**Getting the Lead
Out of Your
Brain, Organs and
Nervous System
and the Link
Between
Behavioral
Problems**



**Karrol Payne
Intervention
Specialist
East Cleveland
City School
District**

IEP and 504 Plan

**"What's In It for
Me"**



**Dawn Pullin
Substance
Abuse/Mental
Health Counselor
Lenzy Family
Institute**

**When the Turn
Up Turns Real –
Chemical
Dependency
and Mental
Illness**



**Dr. Kamesha
Spates**

**Assistant
Professor**

**Kent State
University**

**Quiet as it's Kept:
The Tragic
Reality of Suicide
in the Black
Community**



**Yveta B. Tavares
Senator, District 15
Ohio Senate**

**Moderately Seeking
Treatment:**